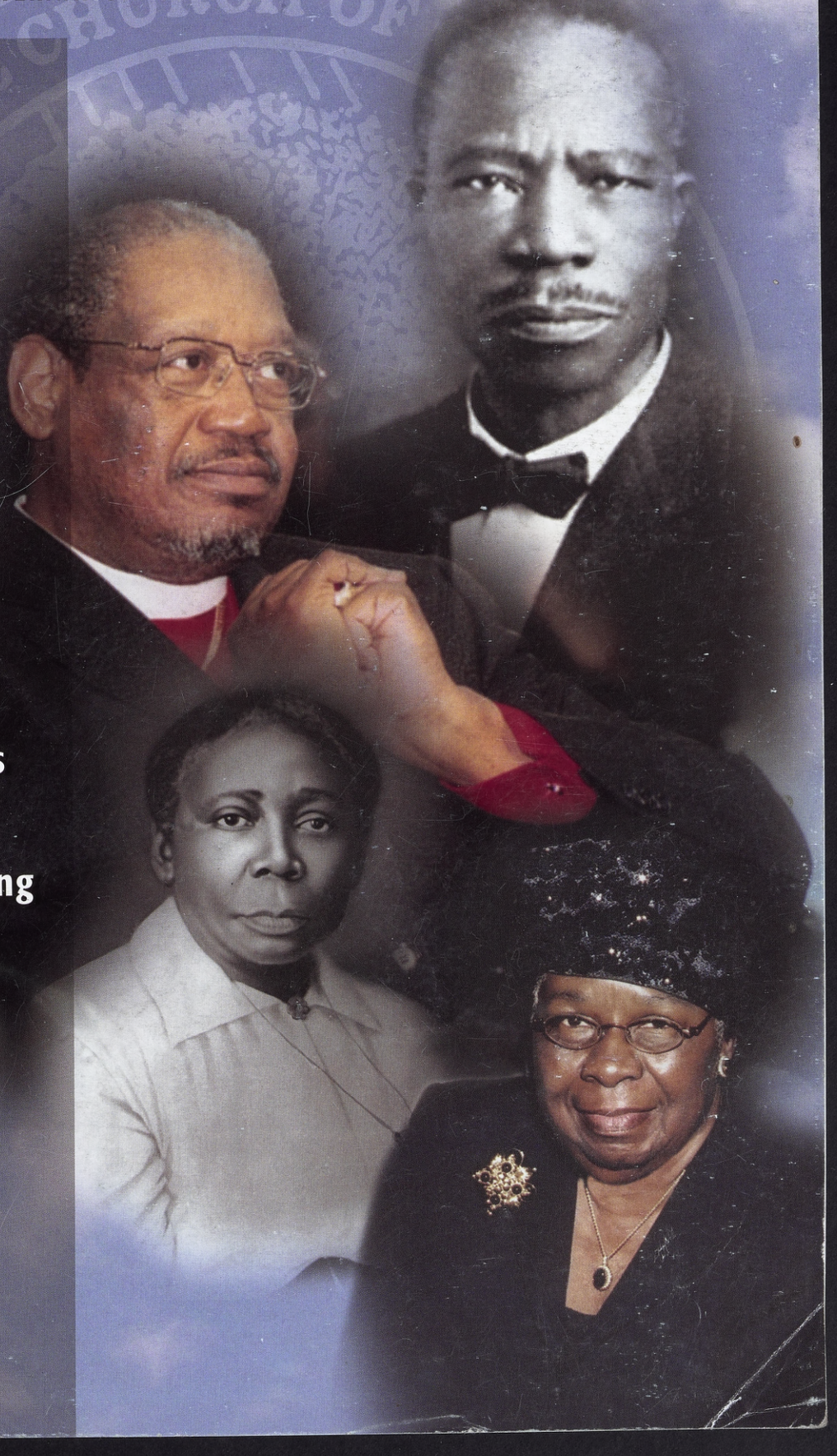
APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2004 • Women's Edition

The Whole Truth

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's State of the Church Address

The Presidium's Proclamation Against Same-Sex Marriage

3rd Annual National COGIC Men's Conference

COGIC Profile: Bishop Darrell L. Hines

COGIC Profile, Part Two: International Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers

COGIC's Music Impacts Worship and the Recording Industry

COGIC Profile: International Chairlady Joyce Rodgers

The Whole Truth

The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ

MISSION

It is the mission of *The Whole Truth* magazine to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate, and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and literary contributions by COGIC members. *The Whole Truth* shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resources of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES: PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

The Whole Truth is the official news source for the more than 5 million members of the International Church Of God In Christ, the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. The historically acclaimed Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded the Church Of God In Christ in 1897; and since its inception the predominately Black body has impacted all segments of Christendom throughout the world. *The Whole Truth* can trace its existence to the 1900s when the news journal reported on various social and spiritual issues, and the saints have embraced the publication as their official news source from that point in history.

If you are a member in good standing with the Church Of God In Christ, but do not consider yourself a professional writer, or if you are a journalist who meets that same criteria, *The Whole Truth*'s editorial staff would like to hear from you. It would be an honor to report the latest newsworthy events concerning your church, district, and jurisdiction. Let your brothers and sisters in the Lord rejoice, praise, and pray with you as they read about achievements, breakthroughs, current events, conventions, home-going celebrations, weddings, etc.

Please be advised that all articles, related resource information, and photos are placed in *The Whole Truth*'s archives and will not be returned. Additionally, the editorial staff at *The Whole Truth* reserves the right to reject, edit, and rewrite all submittals.

You may send your articles, news updates, and photos to *The Whole Truth*, Attention: Editor-In-Chief, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38114.

dear subscribers,



Elder Calvin Burns at the 3rd Annual COGIC Men's Conference.

I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED to present to you the April/May/June 2004 edition of *The Whole Truth*. Each quarter this historic publication has a special focus or theme. Our format is designed to uplift the readers by providing them with the latest events, insight, and information from the Church Of God In Christ.

In this issue, *The Whole Truth* salutes the International Women's Department, which is under the anointed and visionary leadership of Mother Willie Mae Rivers. The dedicated and gracious sisters of COGIC serve as an ideal role model for any woman who has a genuine desire to live Holy and be involved in effective ministry.

Our founding father, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, appointed Mother Lizzie Robinson as the first International Mother in 1911. Bishop Mason was convinced that the women would play a crucial role in the growth of COGIC, and he wanted the Department of Women to be directed by virtuous leaders who had a vision to stand in support of ministry.

It was also Bishop Mason's desire that the Department of Women would serve as the foundation for the women of our church to be taught how to effectively apply a holy method of operating in every aspect of their lives. Truly, his dreams concerning the International Church and the Women's Department have become a reality.

Today, COGIC is the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination—and its International Department of Women has more than lived up to Bishop Mason's expectations in helping with the spiritual maturation of our beloved church.

Yes, the women of COGIC continue to work hand-in-hand with the leadership of our church in carrying out the mission to reach the world for Jesus Christ. Whether it's through the Bible Band, evangelism, mentoring projects, or various other areas of ministry, our sisters are indeed effective witnesses and vessels of honor for the Lord.

God bless our ladies as they ready for the 54th Annual Women's International Convention May 31-June 4 in St. Louis. Congratulations are in order for Mother Rivers and the entire Department of Women. For all that you do, this *Whole Truth* salute is for you!

Yours in Christ,

Elder Calvin L. Burns

Elder Calvin L. Burns
Editor-In-Chief, *The Whole Truth*

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The Whole Truth

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ABOUT THE COVER: *Pictured clockwise from top right: Bishop C.H. Mason, Founding Father, First Senior Bishop from 1907–1961; Mother Willie Mae Rivers, International Supervisor of Women from 1996–Present; Mother Lizzie Robinson, First International Supervisor of Women from 1911–1945; and Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Presiding Bishop from 2000–Present.*

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STOP THE PRESSES:

The Presiding Bishop's State of the Church Address

PLEASE NOTE: Although the April/May/June edition of ***The Whole Truth*** *had already gone to press at the start of the 2004 April Session of the General Assembly, the editor-in-chief, Elder Calvin L. Burns, had to stop the presses in order to include this historic address from our Chief Apostle, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson.*



Our internationally-renowned Presiding Bishop made his unprecedented State of the Church Term End Report Tuesday night, April 13, before the delegates to the 2004 April Meeting of the General Assembly. This eloquent address clearly shows why Bishop G.E. Patterson has earned the reputation for being an anointed and visionary leader who has taken the International Church Of God In Christ to a higher level of prominence in just his first term as Presiding Bishop.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The Most Reverend G.E. Patterson, the illustrious leader of the nation's premier Pentecostal-Holiness denomination, speaks to the delegates attending the 2004 April Call Meeting: Hear Ye Him!

TODAY I GIVE PRAISE, glory, and honor to God, our heavenly Father, and to my Precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for another opportunity to stand before His saints. Some of you will recall that three short months ago when we met for the Leadership Conference in Jacksonville, Florida, I was greatly afflicted in my body, but as I stand before you today, "I am healed by the wound in His side, I am healed by the wound in His side, I am healed by the wound in my Savior's side, I am healed by the wound in His side." I am healed and I rejoice to have this opportunity to give my semi-annual report to the General Assembly. In view of the quadrennial elections which signal the end of one term and the beginning of another, today I wish to give an abbreviated Term End Report.

Let me begin by giving honor and respect to our esteemed Chairman of the General Assembly, the Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., and Vice Chairman, Elder James Hunt, from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to 1st Assistant Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, 2nd Assistant J. Neaul Haynes, former Presiding Bishop Chandler David Owens, and

my fellow members of the General Board; to Chief Justice, Bishop T.L. Westbrooks and the associate justices of the Judiciary Board; to Bishop L.T. Walker, Chairman of the Board of Bishops, and to all of the Bishops of our great church; to Chairman Derrick Hutchins and the General Council of Pastors and Elders, Bishop Charles Mason Ford and members of the Board of Trustees, General Secretary Elder A.Z. Hall, Financial Secretary Bishop Frank Otha White, and Treasurer Bishop Samuel Leon Lowe; to our dearly beloved General Supervisor for the Department of Women, Mother Willie Mae Rivers, the great Jurisdictional Supervisors, and to all the lovely credentialed ladies who comprise the Women's Department. I dare not omit my own wife of soon-to-be 37 years, First Lady Louise Patterson. Finally to all of the credentialed workers in this great church and the Lay Delegates who are assembled.

Mr. Chairman and members of the General Assembly:

On November 14, 2000, you bestowed upon me the greatest honor that could be bestowed upon any member of the Church Of God In Christ, by electing me to the high office of Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle of this worldwide congregation. You bestowed upon me the titles: The Most Reverend, Presiding Bishop, Chief Apostle of the ecclesiastical body and President of the civil corporation. While I am most appreciative for the lofty titles and positions which you have given me, I have endeavored to never lose sight of my God-given position in this office; the position of a servant. I have endeavored to never lose sight of the words of our Lord when the mother of James and John sought to elevate her two sons. In Mark 10: 42-44 (KJV):

> ***"Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister. And whoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all."***

The Apostle Paul put it in this language in I Corinthians 4:1–2 (KJV):

> ***"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."***

I have endeavored to serve God in sincerity and walk before His saints in humility, being faithful both to the Lord and His Church. I have practiced the teachings of the Apostle Paul as he taught in Romans 12:17-18: "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (KJV)

I have not robbed the church. The accounting records will reflect that with my gift today of $75,000 I have given personal gifts to the church in excess of $500,000 (a half million dollars). This amount does not begin to reflect the total gifts that I have given during my tenure, but it is the official record of gifts given during the April sessions of the General Assembly.

I have not taken advantage of my position as Presiding Bishop to rob jurisdictions. Within 30 days of my election, I brought in the General Board to select leadership for Tennessee 4th Jurisdiction. The Pastors unanimously recommended Dr. Jerry L. Maynard to become my successor as Jurisdictional Prelate and I turned the reigns of government over to him with more than $300,000 in the treasury. I did not take any of that money although I had raised it through my tithe of tithe program.

In my capacity as Presiding Bishop it has been my responsibility to assume the leadership of a least 25 jurisdictions, at the demise or incapacitation of their Jurisdictional Prelate. I can truly testify that I have not taken money from a single jurisdictional treasury. The only money I received is that which the jurisdictional officials, without solicitation, gave to me as an honorarium or an expense offering.

From the moment that I was elected to this office, I have sought to unify, spiritualize, and enhance this great church in every conceivable way. Most of you will recall that prior to nominating my choice for 1st and 2nd Assistant Presiding Bishops, my first request was that the chairman would appoint a committee to deal with how the church should honor a former Presiding Bishop. This was not a constitutional requirement and was not done when the second Senior Bishop O.T. Jones Sr. was deposed. No legislation had been enacted to speak to this issue although our constitution clearly states that Presiding Bishops will not be given lifetime tenure.

I believe now that the church needs to take a serious look at the idea of giving special honor to a former Presiding Bishop especially if that former Presiding Bishop chooses to stay on the General Board. He should make a decision as to whether he wants the honor of a former Presiding Bishop or if he prefers to remain an active General Board member. For him to be recognized simultaneously in both positions creates a divisive force within the church. When I am no longer the Presiding Bishop, I will willingly step down from the General Board and give support to the new Presiding Bishop. This posture makes it possible for a former Presiding Bishop to be accepted as an elder statesman within the church who has no political agenda.

My second act as Presiding Bishop was to make two unprecedented nominations for 1st and 2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop. I say those nominations were unprecedented because historically no Presiding Bishop has immediately nominated one who was a candidate for the same office. My choice for second assistant was a secret between God and me. I never discussed that idea with any human creature, but I believe it was divinely inspired as a measure to help bring together a divided church.

As your newly elected Presiding Bishop, I sought to immediately work on our physical and spiritual house. We were blessed to start and complete the first phase of the Renovation of Mason Temple, which consisted of air conditioning, lowering the ceiling, new lighting, television lighting, screens and projectors, new restrooms, remodeled offices including the U.E. Miller Hall, and the prayer room. We put in new boilers. Now we no longer hear the popping sound that we used to hear when it was necessary to heat the Temple, nor do we hear the large fans which were the only source of ventilation.

We were also blessed to remodel our administration building (the first publishing house) next door to the Temple. The basement level now serves as the classrooms for our newly organized All Saints Bible College. The Bailey House was renovated to serve as the beautiful executive offices of the All Saints Bible College.

Because of this city's commitment to the Memphis Grizzlies (National Basketball Association's franchise in Memphis), we were forced to sell our Publishing House on Hernando Street and relocate. God blessed us to secure a suitable facility on Lamar Avenue which was built for a printing company. This new facility has adequate space for our printing needs plus a bindery.

When I took office, there were houses located on Mason Street directly across from Mason Temple, as well as across from Mother Mason's home south to the corner of Walker Avenue. All of those old houses have been purchased by the church and torn down. Additional properties have been purchased on Walker Avenue between Mason and Fourth Streets. A few pieces of property have been purchased on Fourth Street, these properties join our Mason Street properties.

As of last Thursday, April 8, 2004, we have acquired the former Fowler Homes properties to the north of our Temple which consist of almost 14 acres on both sides of Mason Street. The purchased price of this acreage is $450,000; I hope to receive this amount from you before we leave this session of the General Assembly. Everything else that I have mentioned relating to renovations and property acquisitions are completely paid for. We have been blessed to renovate and purchase property from the Wall of Remembrance gifts and what we could squeeze out of the budget. **None of these improvements were paid for from the money in the investment portfolio** which was established by former Presiding Bishop Chandler D. Owens.

"On the spiritual side, we have initiated 30 hours of fasting and prayer to begin the Holy Convocation. We have also added Morning Manna which features prayer and teaching by the Presiding Bishop. I believe that these implementations have influenced our leaders and our young preachers to again carry their Bibles to the convocations. General Board members are kneeling before sitting. Leaders are coming to the National meetings on time and are visibly worshipping the Lord. There is a new spirit of love and fellowship in this great church."

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We were blessed to initiate COGIC Charities which presently has over a half million dollars in its treasury to be used for charitable relief in case of natural disasters and emergencies. For example, we spent $10,000 to purchase bottled water when Memphis was hit with a devastating storm this past July. More than 300,000 homes were without power. We fed ten thousand people at the expense of our local church and supplied bottled water at the expense of COGIC Charities.

Our plan for church extension, which is linked to the $12.00 annual membership report, has not been as successful as I had envisioned. In the year 2001 we laid aside $120,000 to begin our Church Extension Fund to assist struggling Pastors in building, buying or repairing churches. As of this date we have been unable to get more than 100,000 members out of the purported millions of members that we say we have to make the $12.00 report; however, we have been able to almost double what was being done prior to the year 2000. I have not abandoned my vision on the Church Extension Fund—in the future we will do it another way.

Another program that this administration introduced was our COGIC NOW television ministry. This television broadcast

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." —*Matthew 6:33*

was designed to give our own dynamic men and women of the gospel an opportunity to be seen and heard globally. The format of using multiple speakers is difficult to promote at best; then there was the additional problem of promoting our denomination in what is generally perceived as a post-denominational era. We are presently exploring other avenues to reintroduce the COGIC NOW broadcast.

With all of the progress that this administration has made there is yet much to be done as it relates to our national properties.

First, we need to complete the renovation of Mason Temple. The seats in this facility are obsolete and very uncomfortable as a result of the narrow width and the distance between the rows. This building was built by our founding father, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, in the early 1940s and was ahead of its time. Time, however, has caught up with us and we have failed to be on the cutting edge of change as were our predecessors.

The two dormitories next door to the south of Mason Temple, namely the Leila Mason building—which was built in 1934— and the Lee building, must be brought up to date. This needs to be done right away because Saints' Haven across the street from the Temple—which was purchased and renovated so beautifully under the leadership of Presiding Bishop L.H. Ford — will have to be torn down when the city widens Mason Street, transforming it into Mason Boulevard. That building presently serves as the residence for our out-of-town students attending All Saints Bible College (ASBC).

In Lexington, we reopened Saints Academy. Saints Academy has a functioning preschool as well. The buildings on the campus have all been upgraded, with new roofing where needed and other much needed repairs. I am convinced that a feasibility study must be commissioned to determine the best use of these approximately 400 acres. The glory days of Saints Academy as it existed under Dr. Arenia C. Mallory are gone forever. When Bishop L.H. Ford first spoke of reopening the Lexington School he envisioned a second chance school for wayward boys and girls, but that idea was not pursued, and I am not sure whether or not that it's feasible at this time.

I believe that we are on the edge of a tremendous success with our downtown Chisca Hotel and adjacent properties. The General Board Committee, consisting of Bishops W.W. Hamilton, Nathaniel Wyoming Wells and Trustee Board Chairman Charles Mason Ford are working diligently with the proposed developers. There is a great possibility that some construction may begin before this year is ended. I have given a clear directive that (a) we will not sell our property, (b) we will put no cash money into the development of the property, (c) while we will not seek to operate a Hotel business, we will expect to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars per year as a result of monthly rents and lease payments. The church's investment was made when Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr. acquired these properties.

The Church Of God In Christ, just as any other organization, is experiencing some degree of turmoil as a result of the moral climate of this present age. There are more instances of alleged sexual harassment being reported. Occasionally a Pastor dies and his family attempts to take over the church. Some Trustee Boards and Deacon Boards are seizing control of local churches from the Bishops and Pastors. For the first time in many years, we had a Bishop to leave the church because the General Board said no to his request to establish another jurisdiction here in Memphis. There was no problem with him leaving the brotherhood. Even in New Testament times there were those who disassociated themselves from the church. The Apostle John wrote in I John 2:19: "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not of us." While we had no problem with him leaving the brotherhood we did have a problem with his attempt to start a new denomination here in Memphis using the name of The Church Of God In Christ. Whenever one of the above named situations arise, our Legal Department is called in. We do have a growing number of legal problems but when you consider the size of our church, they are relatively few.

This week we will consider the proposed amendments to our Constitution, which were initially presented and voted upon during the Constitutional Convention which was held this past September in St. Louis, Missouri. At the beginning of that convention, the Chairman, Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, gave me an opportunity to speak. I attempted in my address to mentally and spiritually challenge the minds of the delegates to think in terms of what is best for the church. For too long we have manipulated our constitution to benefit contemporary individuals with little thought for the generations who will come behind us.

I pray that as we deliberate these articles before us this week, we will be mindful of the future of this great church and not think in terms of protecting our turf. Many of the problems we encounter today are due to the fact that we have sought to limit the authority of the church's leadership. Pastors who are quite autonomous in the way that they lead their congregations and Bishops who are dictatorial in the manner in which they conduct their jurisdictional affairs will come to Memphis and attempt with all of their energy to tie the hands of the Presiding Bishop and General Board. Some are so intent on tying the hands of the leaders that attempts have been made to place hand picked committees in authority over the men whom you elected to lead the church. Your elected leadership is always subject to the General Assembly when the assembly is in session. It is unconstitutional

to ever make your leadership subject to a committee of the General Assembly. Always remember that your leaders are elected by you to lead the church and that you speak to your leadership through your majority vote. **No officer of the General Assembly and no committee of the General Assembly is empowered to speak for you.** Your Presiding Bishop and General Board speaks for you at all times except when the General Assembly is in session—at which time you speak for yourself through your majority vote. The majority of our General Assembly delegates are peaceful, God-fearing men and women who are respectful of leadership. I pray that this majority will not sit idly by and be intimidated by a negative minority who seek to monopolize the microphone with negative comments.

While we are in the process of amending our constitution, we must not forget that the world around us is lost without Jesus Christ. The church has many challenges resulting from the changing standards of morality in today's world. We must have the courage to take a Biblical stand on the issues which face us today; issues such as same sex marriage and the war in Iraq. During the Leadership Conference last year, the General Board reaffirmed the long standing doctrinal position of the Church Of God In Christ against war. According to our own manual, we are conscientiously opposed to all wars. With this conviction we wrote to President Bush. We took a prophetic stand before the first shot was fired.

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We must speak out against the evil of same sex marriage. God's word is clear. He said to Moses in Leviticus 18:22: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." (KJV) The following verse states: "Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion." Leviticus 18:23 (KJV)

The obvious implication is that if you legalize the homosexual lifestyle, you open a Pandora's box to even more despicable behavior. As members of the Church Of God In Christ we must take strong moral positions. We must put our Biblical principles ahead of our civil politics. If we are morally opposed to same sex marriage, how can we vote for individuals who support it? When you vote for politicians who support same sex marriages, you are voting against the future of your own children and grandchildren.

This nation is hungry for true spiritual leadership. Sincere seekers of God have grown weary with preachers and churches who only preach prosperity and seek political power. There is a growing hunger for true salvation and I want to challenge the dynamic proclaimers of the gospel to heed the need of the hour and return to preaching the old-time Pentecostal message. God will prosper us, but we must remember to put first things first. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." If we put God first, things will follow.

Let me return, for a moment, to our newly acquired property on Mason Street. I believe that the pioneers of this great church are rejoicing in heaven today as a result of this acquisition. When Bishop Mason came to this location following the destruction of the old tabernacle, he walked this land and broke forth in a spiritual song "Take, Take, Take." The Lord instructed him to take this land. At that time this present parcel seemed to most to be more than the church would ever need. It soon became clear that with the tremendous growth of the church, the property which we have just acquired would be needed also—but when the church officials looked into it a few years later, the Memphis Housing Authority had acquired it to build the housing project.

It has taken us more than 50 years to acquire this land, but finally the Lord has delivered it into our hands. In 1996, the former Presiding Bishop Chandler Owens appointed me Chief Operating Officer of the church. At that time, Congressman Harold Ford Sr. contacted me through Elder A.Z. Hall to ascertain whether the church would be interested in taking over this land. He had tentatively set up an appointment for Elder A.Z. Hall and me to meet with the Secretary of HUD. After speaking with the Presiding Bishop, permission was granted to proceed with the meeting—but at the last minute, President Clinton called the Secretary into a cabinet meeting and it has taken us another eight years to finally succeed.

You may ask the question, "Bishop Patterson, now that we have the land, what are we going to do with it?" Well, I'm glad you asked that question. My answer is: This is the place where Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr.'s dream of Saints Center will come to pass. Here we will build the All Saints Bible College which will eventually blossom into All Saints University (ASU), complete with a library and gymnasium. Here we will build an ultra-modern office complex with adequate space to facilitate all of our departments and ministries. Here we will locate our COGIC Bookstore and Pentecostal Museum. Here we will locate an agency which will be designed to give support and assistance to Jurisdictions, Pastors, churches, and the general constituency of our church. Here we will establish a 24-hour prayer and counseling center to help hurting people.

I hear you asking that other question, "Bishop, how do you plan to pay for all of this?" Well, I'm glad you asked that question, too. The answer is simple—I told you about the Downtown Chisca Development. My plan is to use the funds which the church will receive from our downtown properties to finance our Mason Street projects. In fact, it is my intention, once the General Board's Committee has completed our proposed master plan, to have the General Assembly pass legislation which will make it illegal for these funds to be spent otherwise, without a resolution from the General Assembly.

In closing, let me repeat something that I said in Jacksonville, Florida. This is our election year and Satan would desire to see us again divided and torn apart. We do not have to repeat the unpleasantness experienced in the election year 2000. If the church wishes to make a change, I will be just as willing to step aside in 2004, as I was in 1996 when it was said that I had lost the election to the office of Presiding Bishop by one single vote. You will recall that when a recount was called for, the floor became heated and I rose from my seat and conceded by saying these words, "I will not stand idly by and see this church torn up over whether or not I will be the Presiding Bishop." I knew that if it was God's will for me to lead this church, four years would reveal it loud and clear. I trusted God and His people then and I trust both even more now. I say to every candidate, whether an incumbent or a new contender, these offices do not belong to any of us as individuals. Each office belongs to the church and the church has a right under the guidance of the Holy Ghost to promote or demote whomsoever it chooses. What I said in Jacksonville, Florida, I will repeat now: "**Let the peace of God continue.**" This will be our theme for the 2004 Holy Convocation and throughout this election year.

Bishop Levi Willis, who has served the National Church faithfully both as Chairman of the General Assembly and as a Member of the General Board, has requested to be given emeritus status as a General Board Member to become effective as of this November. The General Board voted unanimously in favor of his request and I pray that the General Assembly will do the same.

My final point deals with the Annual Holy Convocation. For 97 years, Memphis has been the home of the Church Of God In Christ. We have made tremendous investments of our time and money in this city, and I expect Memphis to continue to be our home until our Lord returns. I must confess, however, that I have been greatly disappointed in the fact that we are for the most part ignored by city planners when venues are being built or renovated. The 100 million dollar renovation of Cook Convention Center did not include any additional seating for our Annual Holy Convocation. During the renovation of the Cook Convention Center, we were forced to go to the Pyramid which practically everybody dreads. Now that the FedEx Forum is nearing completion, the future of the Pyramid is uncertain. There has been some discussion about turning the Pyramid into a gambling casino. At this time no one knows the future of the Pyramid. There has been much discussion in the news media about the University of Memphis basketball team leaving the Pyramid. If they leave, the Pyramid will have no tenant and the Tomb of Doom will become the doomed tomb. In the midst of all of this discussion no one has cared enough to ask, "What about the Church Of God In Christ?"

We are now in the process of securing the FedEx Forum for those days and nights which are usually held at the Pyramid. The Memphis Grizzlies have become a winning team and we don't know what the future holds in terms of access to this NBA venue. The fact is that we have long ago out grown Memphis as the sight of our Annual Holy Convocation but I would be willing to use every creative method imaginable to keep it here if I felt that we were getting proper cooperation from all concerned parties. The hotels don't give us the kind of special rates that they should as the city's largest annual convention. The news media all but ignores our presence. They never focus on us unless it is something negative like the Bishop who made them believe that he could split this church. I believe that the time has come for us to break this 97 year marriage of our Holy Convocation to Memphis and force Memphis to compete with the other great cities of our nation if they want us. We will always have a convention presence in Memphis even if the Holy Convocation leaves. We have this Annual April Call Meeting and a number of other annual conventions and conferences.

As Bishop Hamilton comes to present the actions of your Presiding Bishop and General Board, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you; I bless you in the name of the Lord." Tell at least five people around you, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you; I bless you in the name of the Lord."

"Let the peace of God continue."

A Marriage Proclamation

To the Church of God In Christ Worldwide

Editor's Note: *A key element in the mission of* ***The Whole Truth*** *is to report the official position of the leadership of the Church Of God In Christ on various national and international issues. During the 2004 April Call Meeting of the General Assembly, the Presidium issued the following proclamation condemning Same-Sex Marriage:*

Let it be known by men everywhere that the General Assembly of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. has adopted this thirteenth day of April, year of our Lord, two thousand and four, in Memphis, Tennessee, this Proclamation on Marriage:

WE, THE PRESIDING BISHOP, THE GENERAL BOARD AND THE BOARD OF BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, solemnly proclaim that the institution of marriage was established and ordained by God (Genesis 2:24). Therefore "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). He created "the woman for the man" (I Corinthians 11:9). Therefore, "marriage is honorable" (Hebrews 13:4).

We believe that since the beginning of recorded history, in most cultures of the world; marriage has been defined as the lawful union of one man and one woman. The traditional form of marriage is one of the bedrock institutions of most societies. We, therefore, affirm the preservation of the present definition of marriage as being the legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife.

We believe that, "Children are a heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalms 127:3). In order to provide for continuation of the species, God created within male and female the potential for bearing children. The first commandment given to Adam and Eve was to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Genesis I:28). Marriage between male and female provide the structure for conceiving and raising children. Compliance with this command of God is a physical and biological impossibility in same-sex unions. We, therefore, believe that only marriages between male and female, as ordained by God, is essential for the procreation of mankind.

We believe that the homosexual practices of same-sex couples are in violation of religious and social norms and are aberrant and deviant behavior. We believe that these unions are sinful and in direct violation of the law of God in that they are a deviation from the natural use and purpose of the body. "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which is due." (Romans I:26-27 NKJV). We believe that to legalize such unions will signal ecclesiastical and social approval of homosexuality and sexual deviancy as legitimate lifestyles.

Therefore, in spite of the progressive normalization of alternative lifestyles and the growing legal acceptance of same-sex unions; we declare our opposition to any deviation from traditional marriages of male and female. Notwithstanding the rulings of the court systems of the land in support of same-sex unions; we resolve that the Church Of God In Christ stand resolutely firm and never allow the sanctioning of same-sex marriages by its clergy nor recognize the legitimacy of such unions.

General Assembly, Church Of God In Christ

Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr.
Chairman, General Assembly

Elder James Hunt
Vice Chairman, General Assembly

Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson
Presiding Bishop

Bishop Charles E. Blake
1st Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop J. Neaul Haynes
2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop Wilbur W. Hamilton
Secretary and General Board Member

Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush
Assistant Secretary and General Board Member

Bishop Chandler D. Owens
Former Presiding Bishop and General Board Member

Bishop Phillip A. Brooks, II
General Board Member

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Jr.
General Board Member

Bishop Leroy R. Anderson
General Board Member

Bishop Levi E. Willis
General Board Member

Bishop George D. McKinney
General Board Member

Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells
General Board Member

Our Illustrious Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson:

Catching and Sharing His Vision for the International Church

A News Analysis by the Staff of ***The Whole Truth***

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, IS KNOWN AS THE BLUFF CITY because of its elevated position on the banks of the Mississippi River. This Jewel City of the Delta is internationally acclaimed for its music, being a distribution center, showcasing a thriving hardwood industry, and possessing some of the best barbecue eateries in the nation. Having a famous city translates into having a famed/prominent citizenry—and being a destination for renowned individuals. For example, Elvis Presley settled here with his family from Tupelo, Mississippi. The Rock-and-Roll icon's residence, Graceland, is a well-known tourist's attraction. Civil Rights legend, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated in this historic city on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel. Dr. King was in Memphis to champion the cause of 1,300 striking African-American sanitation workers, who were demanding equity in pay and benefits. The site of his assassination has been transformed into the National Civil Rights Museum—which pays tribute to the entire Civil Rights era. Memphis, in all of its glory, however, would not be adequately described without noting that it has the distinction of being the location of the World-wide Headquarters for the International Church Of God In Christ, the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, the Chief Apostle of COGIC, has provided exemplary leadership for the 5.5 million members; and indicative of an eminent leader, he is well-respected and known outside the realm of COGIC and the City of Memphis.



The illustrious Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson was elected Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ on November 14, 2000. His historic election ushered in a new era for our Church. The Fourth Presiding Bishop boldly declared that God had prepared him to lead the saints of COGIC into the 21st Century. With that said, he shared a vision that called for a return to our holiness roots, spiritual and educational growth, extension of ministry into the community, and church expansion.

Three and a half years after ascending to the highest level of leadership in our Church, Bishop Patterson's administration has become renowned for being one of keen spiritual insight and innovation. This mild-mannered servant of God is being lauded by a diverse group of leaders for being an anointed, visionary leader who has his hands on the pulse of the membership. Some church historians have noted that under his leadership, COGIC has gained a higher level of respectability both in the national and international arena.

In fact, some scholars are comparing the intensity level of

his first term with the first convening in Memphis of the Saints of the Church Of God In Christ in 1907 by Bishop C.H. Mason. To fully grasp the in-depth course of direction that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson has chartered for our Church, one must understand his vision for ministry.

Our Presiding Bishop first wanted all of the activities at our National meetings to clearly reflect and represent the efforts of a mature Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. "The Church Of God In Christ is no longer a babe," he said. "We're more than 100 years old, and we must focus on what the Scripture calls 'strong meat.' At our National meetings ... we must focus on a steady diet of the Word."

Our Chief Apostle followed up on that observation by re-emphasizing the Solemn Assembly and spiritual significance of the Holy Convocation. Additionally, he developed and implemented a comprehensive format for conducting seminars and workshops at all National meetings. The sessions were designed to prepare every segment of the Church to be effective witnesses and vessels of honor for the Lord.

Secondly, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson devised an innovative redevelopment plan that will ensure the International Church will assume its proper status in Memphis. Under his visionary guidance, COGIC entered a public-private partnership with the City of Memphis for a $50 million urban renewal project.



"... Bishop G.E. Patterson is a preacher," Mayor Herenton said. "He is anointed and he knows the Holy Bible. Then, this man of God has a vision and an unrelenting passion for the Church Of God In Christ to move to greater heights ... (His vision is) a shining example of how partnerships with government can work."

This model development strategy calls for a new World Headquarters, and an expansion of Historic Mason Temple and All Saints Bible College near the city's Fowler Homes site. In addition, new homes will be built along with an apartment complex for senior citizens, a community center, a park, and other recreational facilities.

The main thrust of the project calls for Mason Street to be turned into a boulevard and COGIC, in turn, will purchase a portion of the 11-acre Fowler Homes site from the Memphis Housing Authority. Once that purchase is made, the Church will expand its headquarters, centralize operations, and develop a presence on E.H. Crump Boulevard.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said the renewal project was needed in order for the Church to have its proper station in Memphis.

"This is so important to our Church because with the Church Of God In Christ being considered the fourth or fifth largest denomination in the United States, we have been hemmed down on that narrow street (Mason), away from the main thoroughfare, which is Crump Boulevard," the Presiding Bishop said.

Our Chief Apostle was making reference to the fact that Historic Mason Temple has been landlocked on a narrow byway at 930 Mason for more than four decades. Bishop C.H. Mason, the Founding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ, made history when he directed the designing and building of Mason Temple—which, at its completion in 1945, had the distinction of being the largest worship/administrative facility to be constructed for a predominately Black denomination.

The isolation of our Worldwide Headquarters occurred in 1959, when the Memphis Housing Authority opened the 320-unit Fowler Homes housing development. The decision by the Housing Authority to close Fowler Homes in the spring of 2002, however, opened the door for continued discussions between COGIC and the City of Memphis—and put the nation's most prominent Holiness-Pentecostal denomination in the position to expand the facilities at its Headquarters.

The Honorable Mayor Willie W. Herenton, City of Memphis, is extremely impressed with the vision and ministry of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson.

"First of all, Bishop G.E. Patterson is a preacher," Mayor

Herenton said. "He is anointed and he knows the Holy Bible. Then, this man of God has a vision and an unrelenting passion for the Church Of God In Christ to move to greater heights. That (vision) really gave life to All Saints Bible College, the renovation of Mason Temple, and a burning desire to make all of that real estate around Mason Temple a shining example of how partnerships with government can work."

Other prominent figures in the political and religious community are echoing Mayor Herenton's sentiments concerning the prestige that our Chief Apostle has earned as a direct result of his awesome preaching and exceptional leadership.

President George Bush was so impressed with the direction in which the Presiding Bishop is leading our Church that in March of 2001, he included our leader on the invitation list to visit the White House. Bishop G.E. Patterson was among a select group of African-American religious leaders who President Bush asked to endorse his National Faith-Based Initiative Program. Since that time, the Presiding Bishop is a welcomed guest at the White House, and he has accompanied President Bush on trips throughout the nation promoting faith-based initiatives.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

—Matthew 5:16

Dr. Jack Hayford, editor of the Spirit Filled Bible (KJV), noted that our Presiding Bishop is a dynamic Bible scholar. In fact, he was so impressed with our leader in that role that he asked him to be a contributing writer to the Spirit Filled Bible.

Vinson Synan, a highly respected author and dean of the divinity school at Regent University, lauds Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson for being a renowned leader and anointed preacher. He very confidently declares that our Chief Apostle is one of the best presenters of the Gospel in the known universe.

Additionally, syndicated radio talk show host Don Imus has been overwhelmed by our Presiding Bishop's ministry. From the flagship station of WFAN in Long Island, N.Y., the gravel-voiced and often volatile Imus entertains millions of devoted listeners daily. His show is so popular that it is simulcast on some cable networks.

Imus can best be described as being a nonconformist, as well as being a mover and shaker in the world of talk radio. He usually takes a critical tone when discussing religion on his show. That attitude changes, however, when it comes to Bishop G.E. Patterson.

The conservative talk show host is unabashed in proclaiming his admiration for the Presiding Bishop. Like millions of other supporters, Imus was convinced that the gifted Bishop is indeed an anointed man of God after viewing one of his telecasts.

He extended the Presiding Bishop a personal invitation to be on his show when the highly respected minister of the Gospel was in New York for the 2002 *We Love New York* Crusade. Imus gave Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson the same respect and attention that most secular talk show hosts reserve for heads of state. He clearly had been impacted by Bishop Patterson's ministry—and it was also obvious that he looked forward to hearing the Presiding Bishop preach on the telecasts.

Imus was humbled by the appearance of "this great preacher" and in essence, asked the Presiding Bishop, "What must I do to be saved?" At this point, our Chief Apostle shared with him God's plan for salvation.

The distinguished personality's acute observations about Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson reinforces what Jesus declared in St. Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Yes, under the leadership of Fourth Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, COGIC's light as an august Christian denomination has been elevated to an unprecedented, advanced level for a first-term Presiding Bishop. Religious leaders around the world are recognizing Bishop G.E. Patterson as another good reason to convene their special events in Memphis.

They are seeking this visionary leader's insight to help ensure the success for a number of ecumenical efforts. For they have discerned that his vision is not just for the International Church Of God In Christ, but for all of God's people who would adhere to His call to "sanctify … and be Holy," for He is Holy.

The 97th International Holy Convocation will mark the end of Bishop Patterson's first-term as Presiding Bishop. This means, of course, that 2004 is an election year for our Church. In November, more than 3,000 delegates to the General Assembly will have the task of electing the Presidium and other officers for our National Church.

As we prayerfully approach the time of election, the editorial staff of *The Whole Truth* would respectfully remind the entire membership of a mandate that Jesus Christ has given us, by reviewing Matthew 5:16.

If we as members of the Church Of God In Christ are going to effectively let our light of witness shine before the world, we must know how that relates to the vision of ministry that God has given our Presiding Bishop.

Before we can share the vision, we must first catch the vision; and after catching the vision, then we must reflect that vision in our daily lives.

God Pours Out His Spirit Mightily

By Calvin L. Burns

IT WAS A 21ST CENTURY VERSION of the Day of Pentecost for the more than 2,000 registered delegates and the hundreds of others who attended the 3rd Annual National COGIC Men's Conference. This life-altering event was held May 6–8 in Memphis, Tennessee. All of the informative workshops and other special events were held at the elegant Memphis Hilton Hotel. The awesome nightly services took place at Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ, where our internationally renowned Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson serves as senior pastor. Later it would be announced that once again, the esteemed honor for having the largest delegation to attend this most impressive spiritual summit belongs to the state of Michigan.

Bishop Darrell L. Hines, Director of the National Men's Conference, told *The Whole Truth* that *Men Perfecting Men* is the slogan for the Conference and that this year's theme was *Men Consecrated To Serve*. He added that the three-day event was aimed at enlightening all men, especially laymen, on how to become more effective in ministry. Bishop Hines' powerful presentation at Saturday's prayer breakfast was conclusive proof that the Men's Ministry is totally dedicated to building stronger families for Christ by developing dedicated men for Christ.

The COGIC Men's Conference workshops were designed to enhance every aspect of a Christian man's life. They were offered by a group of outstanding presenters who were exemplary instructors both in their delivery and application.

Dr. Charles Hawthorne had men literally running to get to his very comprehensive session on the Spiritual Man. Dr. Walter Bates was equally inspiring in his presentation on the Social Man. Elder Scott Bradley's workshop on Manhood was very well researched both from an academic and biblical perspective. Dr. Charles Washington was extremely insightful in his presentations on the Physical Holistic. Dr. Terry Mason offered crucial information concerning maintaining one's health in his session on the Physical Man, and Minister Laurence Plummer offered a wealth of information regarding financial planning in his Economic session.

Attendees to the 2004 Men Perfecting Men Conference experienced a glorious spiritual retreat along with a COGIC offering of southern hospitality. The Tennessee Jurisdictional Bishops





Left: Bishop Darrell Hines, Director of the National Men's Conference, is dedicated to building stronger families for Christ. Below: Bishop Paul S. Morton, Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Association, exhorts, "*Don't Cut Down the Fruit Trees.*"

"...a person cannot live a victorious life by 'living for the moment.'"

—Bishop Paul S. Morton

went all out to ensure that the visiting delegates' stay was a pleasant and uplifting one. The host jurisdictional prelates' contributions included helping underwrite the Conference's expenses.

The distinguished Bishops present included Bishop G.E. Patterson, Presiding Bishop; Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr., Tennessee Headquarters; Bishop Jerry Maynard, Tennessee Fourth; Bishop Willie Porter, Tennessee Central; Bishop Samuel Lowe, Tennessee Fifth; Bishop James Scott, Tennessee Eastern; and Bishop Felton Smith, Tennessee Second.

This illuminating national men's ministry is another example of the anointed and visionary leadership of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson. Shortly after his election on November 14, 2000, the Presiding Bishop shared his vision with the General Board concerning having a ministry designed specifically for men.

Our Chief Apostle stressed the point that he did not want to establish a Men's Department because our Church did not "need another bureaucracy"—rather, the members "need ministry." He shared how he wanted the laymen of COGIC to be lifted up in ministry so they could be the exceptional husbands, fathers, employees/professionals, and community leaders that God had called for them to be.

He was convinced that God had prepared just the man in our Church to head this innovative ministry, in the person of Elder (now Bishop) Darrell Hines. As Senior Pastor at Christian Faith Fellowship COGIC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bishop Hines has received national acclaim for being an anointed pastor with a ministry on the cutting-edge, a noted author, and dynamic lecturer.

Upon his appointment as Director of the National Men's Conference, Bishop Hines designed and implemented a holistic ministerial concept that is aimed at ministering to men spiritually, physically, emotionally, and economically. Additionally, he assembled a gifted group of ministers and evangelists to serve as the Executive Committee.

Working in collaboration with the General Board and Bishop Hines, the National Men's Conference Executive Committee has established the foundation for a spiritual structure that will be a source of information and inspiration for men of all denominations.







Top: The International Male Chorus *Shakes the Foundation with Praise*.
Middle: Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson worships at the opening service.
Lower: Bishop Darrell Hines leads an altar prayer following Friday's luncheon address by Bishop Jerry Maynard. Saturday, Bishop Hines uplifted the entire audience with his profound message, *"Extreme Makeover"*.

Congratulations are in order for these dedicated servants of God: Bishop Darrell Hines, Director; Supt. Darwin Randolph, Asst. Director; Dr. Frank A. White, Coordinator /Treasurer; Evangelist Mildred Colby, Executive Assistant; Dr. Elton Amos; Pastor Walter L. Bates; Pastor Roderick Hennings; Pastor Al Jones; Pastor Derrick Mercer; Elder Mel Pryor; Elder Lovelace Redmond, and Elder Earl Wright.

Thanks to the splendid performance of the Executive Committee, attendees of the 2004 *Men Perfecting Men Conference* were directly impacted by the Holy Ghost as they entered into a higher level of God's anointing and became *Men Consecrated To Serve.*

The first sign that this was going to be a highly anointed conference occurred at the opening service at Temple of Deliverance Thursday night, May 6. Pastor Sherman C. Gee Allen led a power-packed intercessory prayer hour from 6–7 p.m. The International Male Chorus stirred the house with an inspiring rendition of *Shake The Foundation With Praise.* Evangelist Demetria Springfield is to be commended for the outstanding direction and orchestration she provided for the Chorus.

Dr. Frank Anthone White, Conference Coordinator, gave an address that grasped the essence of the event. Dr. White lifted the men to their feet as he noted that a real man always comes through; knows who he is; is always in control of himself; is an

intercessor; and is a worshipper.

It was then time for the preached word, which was delivered by Bishop Paul S. Morton, Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Association. Bishop Morton, a product of COGIC, illuminated the mind of every believer as he warned us: *Don't Cut Down the Fruit Trees.* His text was taken from Deuteronomy 20:19–20.

In his sermon, Bishop Morton talked about the dangers of sacrificing the future for the present. He said that a person cannot live a victorious life by "living for the moment." He admonished the audience to turn away from all unrighteousness and seek the fruits of the spirit as recorded in Galatians 5:22.

God's anointing on Bishop Morton was so great that the Holy Ghost made the altar call and scores of men ran down to the front area of the elevated pulpit and poured out their hearts to God. Many were slain in the spirit, backsliders were reclaimed, while others were saved and/or baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Pastor Al Jones clearly had a Word from God as he ministered during Friday's Morning Glory service. The men were so inspired by the move of God through Pastor Jones that they were still talking about the service as they headed to the workshops.

The luncheon speaker for the Friday session was Bishop Jerry Maynard, Chief of Staff for our Church, and Jurisdictional Prelate for the Tennessee Fourth. Bishop Maynard indeed rocked the house as he preached an anointed message entitled *Maximize Your Potential*—his text was found in Ephesians 3:20.

Bishop Maynard declared to the men that God has given them the power, the authority and ability to become supernatural. He explained that through God's blueprint for creation, salvation, and empowerment, there is no limit to what they could become as men. And as a Christian man, "there is a woman suitable for you."

Features from Friday's night spirit-filled service included a video presentation from U.S. Representative Harold Ford Jr. (Democrat, Greater Memphis). In his video message, Congressman Ford commended Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson for his outstanding leadership, both as a local pastor and as Chief Apostle of COGIC. He extended a warm welcome to Bishop Hines and the International Men's Conference, and assured the audience that he stood in full support of the Conference's aim to strengthen families by building up the men.

Additionally, the International Male Chorus rendered anointed music with such inspiring selections as *Everybody Say Yes! (The Lord Is A Good God)* and *The 23rd Psalm.* Once again, Evangelist Springfield was outstanding in her directing and orchestration.

The service was highlighted by a profound message delivered by General Board Member Bishop W. W. Hamilton. Bishop Hamilton, who serves as Secretary for the General Board, spoke from the theme, *The Power Is In Your Yes.* His text was taken from the Book of Jonah with an emphasis on verses from Chapters 1 and 3.

In his message, Bishop Hamilton noted that racism played a factor in Jonah's attempt to disobey God's directive to cry against the wickedness of the people of Nineveh. He warned that anything an individual attempts to do for God will not succeed if it is done with a hidden agenda or ulterior motives.

He admonished the audience to stay in the will of God, which is Nineveh, and to avoid being out of the will of God, which is Tarshish. The articulate and dapper General Board Member noted that if you are in Joppa, then you are in "a holding pattern."

Bishop Hamilton concluded his illuminating message by urging the audience to turn from all evil and wrong doings and say "Yes to the Lord." For it is only by saying "yes" to God that His perfect will came be done in one's life, Bishop Hamilton said.

Again, the Holy Ghost made the altar call as Bishop Hamilton descended from the pulpit and walked the aisles while preaching under a fresh anointing. Hundreds of men could be seen receiving a breakthrough to a special blessing from God.

A full-capacity audience was on hand at the Memphis Hilton Grand Ballroom Saturday, May 8, for the 2004 National Men's Conference Prayer Breakfast. Our visionary Presiding Bishop set the tone for the event by opting not to wear a tie. In his remarks, Bishop G.E. Patterson reemphasized that the National Men's Ministry is aimed at lifting up men, especially laymen, in ministry. He displayed a radiant smile after almost half the men stood when he asked all non-credential holders to stand. Our Chief Apostle then noted

Below, from top: Chief of Staff Bishop Jerry Maynard speaks from the topic *Maximize Your Potential;* Delegates lift up their hands in prayer; U.S. Representative Harold Ford Jr. (D-Memphis) welcomes the Men's Conference to the city via satellite.







that God had confirmed that Bishop Hines was indeed the right choice to head the Men's Ministry.

The air was charged with anticipation as the men readied to hear the closing message from Bishop Hines. First, there was the sermonic solo from his uncle, Governor Hines, who blessed the house with his rendition of *Never Alone.*

Bishop Hines thanked his "Governor" for ministering in song. He then recalled how his uncle had been a special friend and advisor to him down through the years. He noted that the love and support of Governor Hines had been invaluable in giving him moral support to deal with the grief he experienced due to the death of his father last December.

It was then time for the Word, which proved to be a Defining Moment for hundreds of men. Bishop Hines took a dual text from II Corinthians 3:18 and Psalm 51:10, and he spoke from the topic *Extreme Make Over.*

In his message, Bishop Hines presented a provocative interrogative to the attentive audience: "What are you looking like?" He noted that it should be our desire for God to take out of us everything that is not like Him.

Bishop Hines skillfully delivered a soul-searching presentation that offered a unique blend of a special anointing, discernment, biblical knowledge, oratory, keen intellect, and compassion for humanity. He emphasized that God is still working on us as individuals, and that as holy men, we should "know God's DNA." The anointed preacher observed that reality shows are dominating today's television programming. One such show is entitled *The Swan.* The show's format calls for so-called unattractive women to undergo extreme makeovers complete with work from a plastic surgeon—and they agreed not to look into a mirror until after the work is complete.

The articulate and dynamic director explained that God is our plastic surgeon, and He will do a great work in us if we surrender to Him. He then referred to the portion of the text that dealt with an epistle submitted by Apostle Paul, in which the writer declares that God can transform our very countenance into "the Glory of the Lord by the Spirit of the Lord."

"If God is not glorified in your life, then the Holy Ghost is not assisting you," he boldly declared. Bishop Hines noted that men dedicated to doing an effective work for the Lord have denounced all sin and hidden agendas. He emphasized that this is what the Psalmist David did in Psalm 51:10.

As Bishop Hines admonished the men to repent from anything that was keeping God from receiving the Glory in their lives, the Holy Ghost beamed down and lifted him up from the platform. An illuminating wave engulfed the Grand Ballroom, and there was an eruption of worship and praise.

As on The Day of Pentecost, there was a dispensation of Tongues; as some men spoke, others came forward and gave interpretations of what God was saying to them. There was rejoicing and tears of joy. The service concluded with the attendees joining hands in intercessory prayer.

After the benediction, many of the participants were already discussing and anticipating the 2005 National Men's Conference to be held in Detroit, Michigan. Others continued to rejoice and to thank God for our devoted Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, who God gave the vision to have a ministry dedicated to *Men Perfecting Men.*



BISHOP DARRELL L. HINES

DIRECTOR, COGIC NATIONAL MEN'S CONFERENCE

EVERY AREA OF THE SANCTUARY at Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ was charged with glorious expectation for a high time in the Lord on Friday, May 7. Bishop Darrell L. Hines, Director of the COGIC National Men's Conference, was reflecting on how God had indeed moved in a mighty way during the 3rd Annual National COGIC Men's Conference. The tall and stately director told the audience that he was convinced that God had a special blessing for all individuals who would make a $100 contribution in the offering.

Indicative of an effective leader, Bishop Hines held up his $100 gift. He then encouraged others to follow his lead —noting that for some, this would be a sacrificial offering. He paused, allowing the assembly to absorb his appeal for an investment into the National COGIC Men's Ministry.

At this point, he explained that he wanted everyone to be a recipient of this special move of God. Then, he asked for anyone to stand who would *like* to give a $100 gift, but did not have that amount to contribute.

One young man stood, and then another, and yet another. Bishop Hines asked them to come forward. He then placed a $100 bill in each of their hands. "Now, I have given you this $100 to put in the offering," he said. "I gave you this $100, it is yours … you may keep it, or give it in the offering."

All of the men proceeded to place their gift into the offering receptacle—and many of the worshippers rendered thunderous applause of thanksgiving. Bishop Hines thanked the men, while noting the spiritual significance of their actions.



Bishop Hines ministers at the Men's Conference.

Once again, Bishop Hines paused as he gazed into the audience. He then explained that God wanted him to extend the opportunity for others to be blessed by receiving a $100 bill from him to give in this special offering.

One young man stood, then there were two, and soon the line swelled to more than six. They followed the example of the previous participants and placed their $100 bill into the receptacle.

In this interactive expediting of the offering, Bishop Hines demonstrated a core component of his ministry. This compassionate servant of God firmly believes that God blesses His people to be a blessing to others.

This aspect of his vision for ministry is clearly evident in the way he has structured the COGIC Men's Conference Workshops. Shortly after his appointment by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson during the 2000 administrative year, Bishop Hines moved forward to design, develop, and implement workshops that would minister to the total man, so the participants could in turn effectively minister to others.

Bishop Hines explained to *The Whole Truth* that these informative workshops were developed after he had ascertained the vision of our Presiding Bishop concerning the Men's Ministry.

"There is a four-part application for ministry that God has placed in our Presiding Bishop's heart—that is to minister to a man spiritually, physically, socially, and economically," he advised.

The highly successful pastor of Christian Faith Fellowship COGIC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, stated that the workshops were specifically designed to be informative and uplifting.

"The consensus in Christendom is that recreation draw men, but that is not true. Information draws men. And so, we put more emphasis on information than we do recreation," he said.

Bishop Hines noted that the Men's Conference workshops are aimed at uplifting the laymen in ministry. The deacons who teach Sunday School, the ushers, etc. He added that by taking

Bishop Hines moved forward to design, develop, and implement workshops that would minister to the total man, so the participants could in turn effectively minister to others.

this approach, all men are involved in being educated and strengthened in ministry.

The distinguished minister has personally been involved in ministry for 23 years, having pastored for 15 of those years. Under his visionary leadership, Christian Faith Fellowship has grown to more than 6,000 members.

Bishop Hines' vision for ministry calls for ministering to every area of one's life. He emphasizes, however, that effective ministry must be Bible-based.

"You never incorporate tools and utensils that you can't find in the Word," he said. "All of it (ministry) has to be Word-based."

Bishop Hines believes that a strong family makes a strong church. Therefore, there is a strong focus on ministering to the family at Christian Faith Fellowship. His commitment to family is evident in his own life—he is a loving husband to his wife of 25 years, Pamela, and they are the devoted parents of two adult sons.

Christian Faith Fellowship features a strong youth ministry. Additionally, there is a special focus of ministry for the unmarried members.

One noted scholar defined leadership as "the ship that leads the way." Bishop Hines certainly is doing an outstanding job in guiding the National Men's Conference into new waters of tremendous growth.

The gifted pastor, evangelist, and author is keenly aware that the growth of the Men's Ministry has occurred because of the lighthouse of innovative leadership provided by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson.

Bishop Hines notes that our Chief Apostle has become a mentor for him. He adds that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board's leadership should serve as a source of inspiration for men of all denominations.

"I truly believe that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board have taken this Church to a new plateau," he said in a reflective tone. Bishop Hines expressed his gratitude to the General Board for working as a cohesive unit with the Presiding Bishop in carrying out our Chief Apostle's vision for ministry.

"I believe that Bishop Patterson is one of the greatest examples that I have as a man of God today. Bishop Patterson is one of the greatest visionaries of our day, and one of the greatest preachers of our day and time. I believe he has his hand on the pulse of God for this Church. I am honored that he would see enough in me to even assist him in this endeavor," Bishop Hines concluded.

At the Conference, Bishop Hines noted the spiritual significance of turning one's blessings from God into blessings for others—a core component of his ministry.

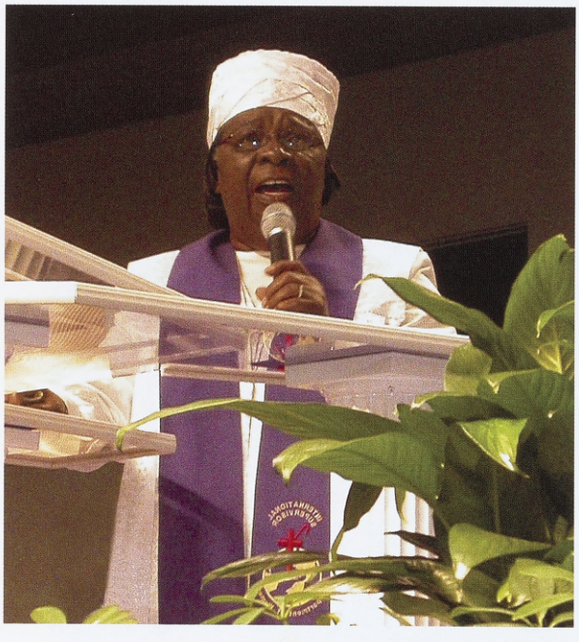


International Supervisor, Mother Willie Mae Rivers

MOTHER WILLIE MAE RIVERS HAS BEEN SAVED since 1946 and the Lord has blessed her to accomplish great achievements in kingdom work.

Recently, she observed the 30th anniversary of her radio ministry. Clearly, the Lord has given Mother Rivers the foresight to speak to the everyday concerns of women while supporting the vision of Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson and the General Board. In her continuing endeavor to frame the benefits of the Department to the Bishops, Pastors, and the Elders Council, she met with those entities and was successful in explaining the work and goals of the women's ministry. "As to our responsibility in serving and supporting our church and its ministry, I feel that I should have a clear understanding, then convey that to the women." In 2004, 85–90 percent of the daughters of the church seem to grasp the directives from the Sixth General Supervisor of the Department of Women and are moving forward with enthusiasm and a commitment to meet their goals.

My wish is that after the convention, the women will return to their churches with a greater desire to enhance the ministry, beginning with the local church.



The Whole Truth learned during a brief interview with Mother Rivers at the Annual Leadership Conference in Jacksonville, Florida, that she and her convention staff would travel to St. Louis within weeks to finalize plans for the 54th Annual Women's International Convention. The interview covered a range of topics, but her focus was on the training opportunities provided during the Women's Convention.

The Whole Truth: Thank you, Mother Rivers, for taking time for this interview. You've been working for the Lord a long time in the Church of God in Christ and you haven't stopped yet.

Mother Willie Mae Rivers: Yes, for 57 years I have served—beginning at Calvary, which was the first Church of God in Christ in the Goose Creek area of South Carolina where Bishop Johnny J. Johnson is pastor. And we conducted revivals all over South Carolina. I would sing and play the piano, lead the prayer services, whatever I could. We also conducted revivals in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, Maryland, and throughout the South Carolina Jurisdiction.

The Whole Truth: And you're still working, traveling, and ministering as unto the Lord. One of the most important tools for training in ministry is the Women's Convention, which will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, May 31–June 4. To keep our readers informed of what's going on with the Department of Women, what is your desire above all for your daughters to take away from this 54th Women's Convention?

Mother Willie Mae Rivers: My wish is that after the convention, the women will return to their churches with a greater desire to enhance the ministry, beginning with the local church. With that in mind, the convention is geared to provide a setting so that they gain full knowledge to reaffirm their commitment to holiness. The greatest aim is that they will be able, through the knowledge gained, to pass on the message and the directives that they received and shared at the Convention.

The Whole Truth: Will you be involved in any foreign travels this year? What are some of the unique needs that your daughters in foreign countries have that you will address?

Mother Willie Mae Rivers: I am not quite sure (about travelling abroad) at this time, but it is a possibility. My concern now is to help supply materials needed to enhance our work. In 2003, the Women's Department assisted Supervisor Copeland in shipping supplies to the Philippines and sent materials to the women in Liberia, West Africa, such as Women's Department



Handbooks and Certificates for Appointments, etc.

There is also a need for medical supplies in the foreign field. Mother Gloria Rodgers is a medical doctor and recently a group that included nurses traveled to Haiti to give medical attention and represent the Church of God in Christ.

I am also pleased to report that the Women's Department has on the agenda to give support to upkeep the home which Mother Sandra Parker established in South Africa. I pray that Bishop Carlis Moody and the Missions Department will get an accurate report of what the women are doing. The women are also doing great things through their local churches that may not be captured.

The Whole Truth: What do you have in store for your class for the younger women who are forty-nine years of age and under?

Mother Willie Mae Rivers: We have some wholesome information for them that will help not only spiritually but also naturally. We want them to know that they are truly important to us and that they are a vital part of our Department. We want to instill in them the spirit of our church.

The Whole Truth: The units and auxiliaries sessions were great during this leadership conference. An underlying theme for all the sessions was having greater unity. What can your daughters do in the jurisdictions districts and local churches to foster great unity?

Mother Willie Mae Rivers: Find a way to come together in fellowship. Have a time of sharing with each other. The main ingredient for unity is prayer and fasting. The Lord dropped in my spirit for the women to bond together. I want the women to fellowship together and become more active in their local ministries while committing to the cause of Christ. When we have unity, we can reach out in the communities to the unsaved and show them the way of salvation.

I am also reaching out to the professional women in our churches and I hope to be able to present to a great number of them during the Women's Convention.

The Whole Truth: I know you have a heavy travel schedule and we pray for you daily as you travel through the airways. Where do you go when you leave Jacksonville?

Mother Willie Mae Rivers: From now until the time of the Women's Convention, I am scheduled to travel to Wisconsin, Alabama, Detroit, Kansas City, Missouri, Chicago, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana. Hopefully, I will be able to respond to some of the request for foreign visits in the year 2004.

The Whole Truth: Many request your prayers as you travel across the country. What are your prayer requests?

Mother Willie Mae Rivers: That God would continue to strengthen me for my assigned task and that I would inspire others to be totally committed to the ministry. Overall, I am pleading with the women of our church to unite in prayer for the leadership of our church. This is an election year and we all want God's perfect will to be done.

Overall, I am pleading with the women of our church to unite in prayer for the leadership of our church. This is an election year and we all want God's perfect will to be done.

54th Women's International Convention/Crusade

COORDINATOR'S OFFICE HANDLES REGISTRATION NEEDS WITH EASE

by Calvin L. Burns



Mother Olive Brown

Editor's Update: *Due to the stopping of the presses to include breaking news, the 54th Women's International Convention convened before this edition of* ***The Whole Truth*** *was issued. The five-day event was truly a time of information and inspiration. Some of the highlights include the following:*

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson preached more than 35,000 people to their feet at the America's Center on Friday, June 4, with his powerful sermon, ***Woman Thou Art Loosed****. International Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers was equally impressive in her official address on Tuesday, June 1. In addition, Mother River's dialogue with the Young Women of COGIC was extremely enlightening. Many of the sisters under the age of 40 who attended the session told us that the instruction they received from Mother Rivers had a life-altering impact on their lives.*

The Whole Truth *will present full coverage of the 54th Women's International Convention in its Holy Convocation edition.*

The Golden Arch of St. Louis, Missouri will reflect the radiant glow of the virtuous women of the International Church Of God In Christ, as this internationally renowned city—which sits prominently on the banks of the Mississippi River—serves as host for the 54th Women's International Convention/Crusade Monday, May 31–Friday, June 4. Services will be held at the Cervantes Convention Center. More than 15,000 delegates are expected to attend the annual meeting of the International Women's Department, which is under the anointed and visionary leadership of Mother Willie Mae Rivers.

This informative and inspirational event has in the past received rave reviews for being well conceived and orchestrated. The Women's International Convention Office, headed by coordinator Mother Olive Brown, plays a vital role in ensuring the success of this Convention. In addition to handling the Red Card Registrations, the Women's Convention Office also oversees the compiling and printing of the Convention's Souvenir Book.

On Friday, March 19, the editorial staff of *The Whole Truth* visited Mother Brown in her office at the Women's Department complex in Memphis, Tennessee. Mother Brown resides in Montclair New, Jersey, and serves as Supervisor for the New Jersey First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, where Bishop Martin Johnson is prelate.

"Be sure to tell your readers that all roads are leading to St. Louis," Mother Brown declared while displaying a radiant smile. "This will be the first time that our convention has been held in St. Louis. We have convened in Kansas City, Mo., three times previously. Please remind the brothers that they, too, are welcome to attend the Women's International Convention."

This convention is inclusive to every segment of our Church. Mother Brown noted that families could plan their vacations to coincide with the Women's Convention and experience a spiritual retreat that will impact each family member for years to come.

Planned activities include A Gospel Music Explosion, President's Dialogue with the Young Women of COGIC, Children and Teen Ministries, Workshops for Men, Open Forum Workshops, Morning Prayer and Inspirational Messages, and Nightly Evangelistic Services.

Highlights of this power-packed Conference will occur Tuesday and Friday nights, when the delegates will be blessed to hear inspiring words from International Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers and Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, respectively.

"Our Presiding Bishop and Mother Rivers are both anointed vessels and eloquent speakers," Mother Brown observed. "It would be more than worth making the trip to St. Louis just to be blessed to hear them bring the Word."

Sister Fredda Tucker, Principal Clerk in the Women's Convention Office, is the point person for Red Card registration. Sister Tucker, who has worked in the Women's Convention office since 1985, said that she thoroughly enjoys assisting the saints with first-class accommodations at a significantly reduced cost.

You really haven't fully experienced the essence of an International gathering of COGIC unless you have obtained a copy of the official souvenir booklet. At 1,075 pages, the 2004 Souvenir Journal of the International Women's Convention is a must-have piece for all COGIC members.

Mrs. Alfreda Wright is a member of the Standing Souvenir Journal Committee. She is also the second of 12 children who are blessed to be able to call the International Supervisor "Mom."

"I can truly say that the Souvenir Journal reflects the character of my mother; it is a first-class publication," Sister Wright said. "Every segment of our church is represented, and it lives up to its name—Souvenir."

This charming housewife from Goose Creek, S.C., then paused before talking about her mom, Mother Rivers. There was an obvious glow of admiration on her face as she began to speak.

"Mom is a warm, genuine person. She is totally dedicated to the doctrine and lifestyle of holiness. We (siblings) grew-up in a loving home that was based on prayer and godly living. To know my mom is to love her, for she is an extremely loyal and loving person."

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COUNCIL to host "Inspiration Conference 2004"

SEPTEMBER 3, 4, and 5

Speakers include



Bishop and Mrs. W.B Henderson



Evangelist Crystal Rucker



Supt. John Mark Johnson



Evangelist Bridgette Mack

The State Young Women's Christian Council (Y.W.C.C.) for the Western Missouri 2nd Jurisdiction will sponsor their annual conference ***SEPTEMBER 3, 4, AND 5.*** This year's conference will be unique in that it will feature both men and women speakers. The theme for the conference is ***"MEN AND WOMEN INSPIRING HOPE AND POSSIBILITY THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD." PSALMS 42:5*** The conference will be held at Barker Memorial Cathedral of Praise COGIC, 11401 E. 47th St. Kansas City, MO., where Supt. John Mark Johnson is the host pastor. A highlight of the conference will be on ***SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4,*** with a ***"ROAD TRIP FOR YOUR SOUL"*** to the serene, beautiful, and spectacular setting of Powell Gardens, a natural paradise. A seminar, luncheon, and tour of Powell Gardens will be featured on that day. The luncheon keynote speaker will be Bishop Wellington B. Henderson, Jurisdictional Prelate of Western Missouri 2nd Jurisdiction. Other conference speakers include Supt. John Mark Johnson; the renown song bird, Evangelist Missionary Crystal Rucker; Elder Daryl Randolph; Jurisdictional First Lady, Mother Mary Lee Henderson; Elder Willie Vaughn III, and Evangelist Bridgette Mack of the Kansas East Jurisdiction. The conference coordinators are Missionary Teresa Jones Merritt, State YWCC President, and Sis. Bernice Danley, State Vice President. There is no registration fee for the conference general sessions. The reservation cost for the "Road Trip for Your Soul" is ***$35.00*** which includes a seminar, lunch, and admission into Powell Gardens in Kingsville, Missouri (About 25 mins outside of Kansas City, MO). Transportation cost is not included. For additional information contact Missionary Merritt at (816) 763-8429 or email her at teresaywcc@msn.com. Sis. Danley may be contacted at (816) 737-5067 and her email address is bernicedanley@hotmail.com. The reservation deadline is ***AUGUST 15***. Space is limited so make reservations now to ensure your place. Please send checks or money orders to ***YWCC P.O. BOX. 17819, KANSAS CITY, MO. 64134.*** Don't miss this outstanding event!. Bishop W. B. Henderson is the Jurisdictional Prelate and Mother Annie Franklin is the Jurisdictional Supervisor. Mother Callie D.



Elder Willie VaughnIII



Pastor Daryl Randolph

Conference Coordinator

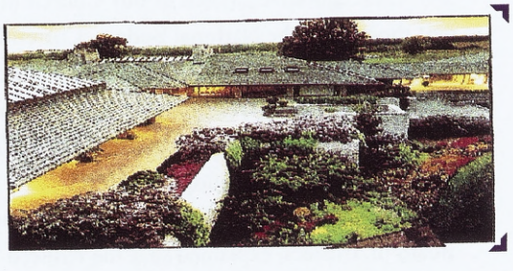


Missionary Teresa Jones Merritt
YWCC State President

"A ROAD TRIP FOR YOUR SOUL"



POWELL GARDENS



April Call Meeting Preview

KEY AGENDA ISSUES: QUADRENNIAL ELECTIONS AND FIRST READING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Please note: *This issue of* ***The Whole Truth*** *went to press before the minutes of the 2004 April Call Meeting of the General Assembly were released. The editorial staff covered the two-day meeting, and will provide full coverage of the latest actions of the Legislative Branch of our Church in our next edition.*

Memphis, Tennessee—More than 3,000 delegates to the General Assembly of the International Church Of God In Christ, Inc. are expected to attend the 2004 April Call Meeting. The spring meeting of the Legislative Branch of the Church Of God In Christ is scheduled to take place April 13–15 at Historic Mason Temple.

The distinguished Chairman of the General Assembly, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr., will present an agenda that will contain at least eight items. The priority items on the Agenda will focus on the Quadrennial Elections in November, and the first reading of the proposed amendments to the Constitution of our Church.

The Church Of God In Christ convened a Constitutional Convention September 16–18, 2003, in St. Louis, Missouri (see the July–Dec. 2003 issue of *The Whole Truth* for full details). In November, the delegates to the General Assembly received a 40-page document that contains all of the proposed amendments that were approved there by the delegation.

During the Convention, the delegates received instructions from Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, with the support of the General Board and the Chairman of the General Assembly, to study the document carefully and return to the April Call Meeting being fully prepared for the first reading of the proposals. The Church Of God In Christ's Constitution contains a mandatory Three Readings Rule for proposals before the General Assembly can vote to approve them as constitutional amendments.

The Legislative Branch of our Church might revisit the current shortfall in the National Budget. Currently, 70 percent of the funding for the National Budget comes from the leadership via the Credentials Report. In November, it was revealed that the 2004 proposed operating budget of $7,674,700 is down from the $7,888,988 operating budget for 2003.

Bishop Charles Mason Ford, Chairman of the National Board of Trustees, explained that the reduced budget was a direct result of decreased payments from the saints' Credential and Laity reports. He said this decrease in the payments made it necessary for the National Church to borrow money in order to meet budget—and make a reduction in funding for some programs.

This revelation led to a passionate plea from Mother Mary Beth Kennedy, Supervisor of the Democratic Republic of Congo, for the National Church not to reduce its financial support to the Department of Missions. First Assistant Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake Sr. noted that a check for $25,000 had been given to Mother Kennedy for the children and her work in Africa. He added that a number of local COGIC congregations support Missions with thousands of dollars that are not reflected in the National Budget.

In his closing remarks, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson assured the assemblage that Missions and Outreach will continue to be a key focus of his administration. He also cautioned the body not to let the fact that some of our leaders might be campaigning for the upcoming elections to diminish the numerous advancements the Church has made under his leadership.

Yes, beloveds, it is election time! Elder Solomon Williams, Chairman of the Nominating and Screening Committee, reported at the November Meeting of the General Assembly the list of incumbents and candidates vying for your support in the 2004 Quadrennial Elections.

After the reading of this list by Mother Rose Ritter, Elder Williams stated that the final list of candidates would be submitted to the Chairman at the 2004 April Call Meeting. All potential candidates were to have filled out a form of intent during the November gathering.

The Nominating and Screening Committee has been authorized by the General Assembly to develop and submit for adoption all rules governing the nominating process for National Officers. All applicants, including incumbents, are required to submit their application for office to this group.

Additionally, this Committee has the right to question any applicant for cause. The final list of applicants and results of the screening efforts are then submitted to the Chairman of the General Assembly.

Yes, beloveds, it is election time!

incumbents

The General Board

Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson
Bishop Charles Edward Blake
Bishop J. Neaul Haynes
Bishop Wilbur Wyatt Hamilton
Bishop Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush
Bishop Chandler David Owens
Bishop Phillip Aquilla Brooks
Bishop Levi E. Willis
Bishop Leroy Robert Anderson
Bishop Samuel Lee Green
Bishop G. D. McKinney
Bishop N.W. Wells

The General Secretary

Elder A.Z. Hall Jr.

The General Treasurer

Bishop S.L. Lowe

The National Financial Secretary

Bishop Frank Otha White

The National Board of Trustees

Bishop Charles Mason Ford
Superintendent Brandon Porter
Superintendent Dwight E. Walls
Supervisor Frances Sipes-Curtis
Missionary Carole Hogan-Williams
Sister Mildred Linzy
Deacon Walter Jones
Bishop William Theophilus Cahoon
Bishop Dwight Lavon Green
Elder Josephus Shepherd
Elder Frank A. White
Superintendent McLendon Winbush
(Superintendent Dickerson L.S. Wells, who currently serves as Secretary for the National Board of Trustees, has also indicated that he will run for re-election.)

candidates

The General Board

Bishop Earl J. Wright
Bishop Howard E. Quillen
Bishop George A. Williams
Bishop Jacob Cohen
Bishop Felton M. Smith
Bishop Martin L. Johnson
Bishop Cody V. Marshall
Bishop Walter E. Bogan
Bishop Juan D. Lawson
Bishop Harvey L. Lewis
Bishop David R. Houston
Bishop Aubrey Baker
Bishop Ocie Booker
Bishop Jerry Macklin
Bishop Norman N. Quick

The General Secretary

Elder Clifford Eason III
Elder Sarone A. Kennedy Sr.

The General Treasurer

Darin Burns

The National Financial Secretary

None

The National Board of Trustees

Missionary Sylvia H. Law
Elder Eugene Ferrell
Elder Samuel Sexton
Elder Percy W. Henderson II
Superintendent Jerry E. Johnson
Superintendent Mark L. Perry
Elder E. Charles Conner
Elder Nathaniel Screven
Superintendent Robert E. Garner
Elder James Z.T. Harris I
Dr. Allen Smith Jr.
Mother Evelyn A. Kelly
Brother Zeno Veal
Elder William Owens

The National Board of Trustees, cont.

Elder Jerry I. Hargett
Brother Oscar W. Richardson
Brother Jerome Strickland Sr.
Superintendent Jerry West
Sister Alice R. Smith
Brother Herbert L. Hunter
Brother Jesse Herron
Elder Dennis J. McMurry
Brother F. Lamont Black
Bishop Roy Dixon
Superintendent Burton D. Clemmon
Elder T.L. Seals
Elder Lemon T. Frye
Elder Maurice Washington
Brother Lionel Smith
Superintendent William Stephens
Elder Keith A. Kershaw
Elder Carl Williams
Elder Jerry L. Ivery
Bishop Irvin G. Perry
Superintendent Patrick Wooden
Superintendent Samuel Gilmore

Extending Ministry with Social Issues

Sanitation Strike Commemoration March and Public Service Appreciation Day Provide Unique Opportunities to Share God's Love



BISHOP J.O. PATTERSON JR. SERVES the Church Of God In Christ with distinction in his roles as Chairman of the General Assembly and the Jurisdictional Prelate of the Tennessee Headquarters Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. He is senior pastor at Pentecostal Temple Institutional Church Of God In Christ. This exemplary leader bears the fruit of a rich legacy that comes from a prominent family tree. His grandfather is the late Bishop C.H. Mason—the founding father of the International Church Of God In Christ. His father, the late Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr., was the First Presiding Bishop of our Church. This articulate Chairman of our legislative branch is a highly respected public servant, businessman, attorney, and preacher. He was re-elected as Chairman without opposition in November 2002, and has the esteemed honor of being the first African-American to serve as Mayor for the City of Memphis.

Last fall, Bishop Patterson encouraged more than 40 pastors in his jurisdiction to do a greater work for the Lord in 2004. He challenged the leadership and laity to work in harmony as a well-organized unit to win souls for the Kingdom of God. After a series of planning sessions, a jurisdictional meeting was held, and every segment of Headquarters embraced Bishop Patterson's vision for the jurisdiction's 2004 theme: *Go a Little Farther* and *Step a Little Higher* (Matthew 26:39).

The dynamics involved in the development of this provocative theme would serve as the catalyst for two pastors to extend their ministry into the community by sponsoring social/community outreach activities. One minister would use a march commemorating the 1968 Sanitation Strike as an opportunity to witness the redemptive power of Jesus Christ. Public Service Appreciation Day would be the venue that another pastor would use to urge elected officials, community leaders, and civil servants to seek God and His righteousness in carrying out their duties.

All the pastors carried the word back to their congregations: in 2004, every church-related activity should be geared toward soul winning. Classes at the Headquarters' Second Saturday fellowship were restructured to ensure that individuals received instruction aimed at helping them better perform their various duties at the local, district, and jurisdictional levels.

The 2004 Calendar of Events for Headquarters reflects a cohesive effort designed to uplift Christ to all humankind. Th e activities revolve around the jurisdiction's theme like an overture to a classical production—and the leadership definitely is playing well in the first-chair.

Pastor Dickerson L.S. Wells and Dr. David Hall Sr. serve as administrative assistants to Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr., along with Dr. L.T. Frye Sr. The insightful leaders wasted little time in designing innovative ways that would allow them to implement the

Ministering to the community: A march commemorating the 1968 Sanitation Strike. The banner reads, "I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body."



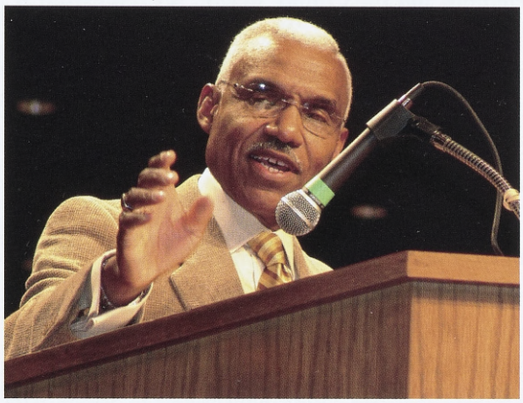
jurisdiction's cutting-edge strategies for spiritual and personal enrichment into their pastoral activities.

Elder Wells, senior pastor at Hebrew COGIC, serves as Superintendent of the J.O. Patterson Sr. Memorial District and also is a trustee for the National Church. Dr. Hall, senior pastor at Temple COGIC, serves the National Church as CEO of the Publishing House.

Supt. Wells was keenly aware that his decision of having the J.O. Patterson Sr. Memorial District to sponsor a recollection and re-enactment of the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike of February 1968 would reinforce a point that he had earlier made to the pastors in his district.

"I challenged the constituency to be about the purpose that Christ has called us," Supt. Wells recalled to *The Whole Truth*. "I wanted us to do more in finding needs and meeting them, and to take advantage of every opportunity to witness to the lost."





From top: Supt. Dickerson L.S. Wells presents Mr. Taylor Rogers with a special honor as Mrs. Rogers looks on with pride; Mayor A.C. Wharton speaks to an enthusiastic crowd.

Supt. Wells issued that same challenge to each department head at Hebrew. He wanted every auxiliary focused on soul winning. So when he learned that Hebrew's youth wanted to join in with the young people throughout the district in learning more about the 1968 struggle that resulted in the death of legendary civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he gave his full support to the event.

Minister Michael Cummings, serving as Youth President for the J.O. Patterson Sr. Memorial District, spearheaded the observance. "The youth of the J.O. Patterson Memorial District wanted to be involved in an event that epitomized humanitarian service," he said. "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. paid the ultimate price. He was assassinated while in Memphis to support the strike."

The youth leader noted that it is extremely important for today's youth to be educated concerning the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement. "Too many of our young people today are not aware about the struggle of African-Americans to obtain equality," Minister Cummings said. "This re-enactment provided an opportunity to revisit the numerous contributions of Dr. King and to pay tribute to the man who helped coin the phrase 'I Am A Man.'"

Minister Cummings was referring to the special honor that was given to Mr. Taylor Rogers. In 1968, Taylor Rogers was a trash collector in Memphis. Mr. Rogers considered himself as "just another guy" with eight children to support and a mortgage to pay off. He went on to become the focal point for the more than 1,300 African-American sanitation workers who wanted to win recognition as a union with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and as human beings.

Disgusted by racism and subhuman working conditions, Mr. Rogers along with his comrades launched a strike in February 1968 to ensure that their grievances would be addressed by the City of Memphis. Their protest signs displayed a simple yet profound message: I Am A Man.

The 64-day strike captured the dignity and respect from the city fathers that the sanitation workers so richly deserved. The victory, however, did not come without a gallant fight. In addition to Dr. King's assassination, the workers were beaten, gassed, and jailed.

After the strike, Mr. Rogers ascended to the highest level of leadership for Local 1733 of AFSCME, when he became president. Today, at age 71, Mr. Rogers is retired and the proud grandfather of 16. He is currently working to establish an AFSCME retiree unit.

On Saturday, February 28, 2004, the J.O. Patterson Sr. Memorial District sponsored a march from Pentecostal Temple Institutional Church Of God In Christ to Historic Mason Temple, in commemoration of the Sanitation Workers Strike.

Along the way, participants sang spirituals that were popular during the civil right era as well as today's Gospel music standards. The theme banner for the occasion adopted the title of the latest release by Hezekiah Walker: *I Need You, You Need Me; We're All A Part of God's Body*. The marchers proudly carried the I AM A Man posters.

Supt. Wells remained focused on the purpose of the event and witnessed to a number of individuals who had lined up along the marching route—including a mother with her five children, who readily received his message. One of the daughters held a picture of Dr. King in his coffin at R.S. Lewis Funeral Home.

Upon arriving at Historic Mason Temple, the district expedited an impressive program honoring Mr. Rodgers. The Honorable A.C. Wharton Jr., Mayor of Shelby County, gave the keynote address.

Following the ceremony, Mr. Rodgers talked with *The Whole Truth* about the day's activities and the purpose of the strike.

"I praise God for being thought of so highly by the dear people of the Church Of God In Christ," Mr. Taylor said. "Being here (Mason Temple) made it even more special because Dr. King gave his very last speech (*I've Been to the Mountain Top*, April 3, 1968) here. And, you know, the minister who now serves as your

TENNESSEE HEADQUARTERS JURISDICTIONAL ROSTER

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Presiding Bishop was with us."

Mr. Taylor was making reference to the fact that the then-Elder G.E. Patterson, co-pastor of Holy Temple COGIC, was part of the nine-member committee that was responsible for providing support for the striking sanitation workers. The committee also mapped the strategy that played a crucial role in convincing Dr. King to come to Memphis in support of the sanitation workers.

The distinguished honoree concluded the interview by noting: "I went to work on a truck in 1958, carrying a big tub into backyards and loading up. We had no union, no vacation, no benefits, no pensions, no overtime. The pay was 94 cents an hour. Dr. King heard about our situation and came here to Memphis to help win our dignity. Today, Memphis has a Black Mayor (both the City Mayor, Dr. W.W. Herenton, and the County Mayor, A.C. Wharton Jr., are African-American) and a majority of the City Council is Black. The Black community has dignity and the White community has awareness (about the role of racism in the plight of African-Americans).

On Sunday, February 29, Temple COGIC sponsored Public Service Appreciation Day in the same spirit of community outreach that the J.O. Patterson Sr. Memorial District had exhibited the day before. The theme for this special worship celebration was *Uplifting Our Public Servants* (I Timothy 2: 1–6).

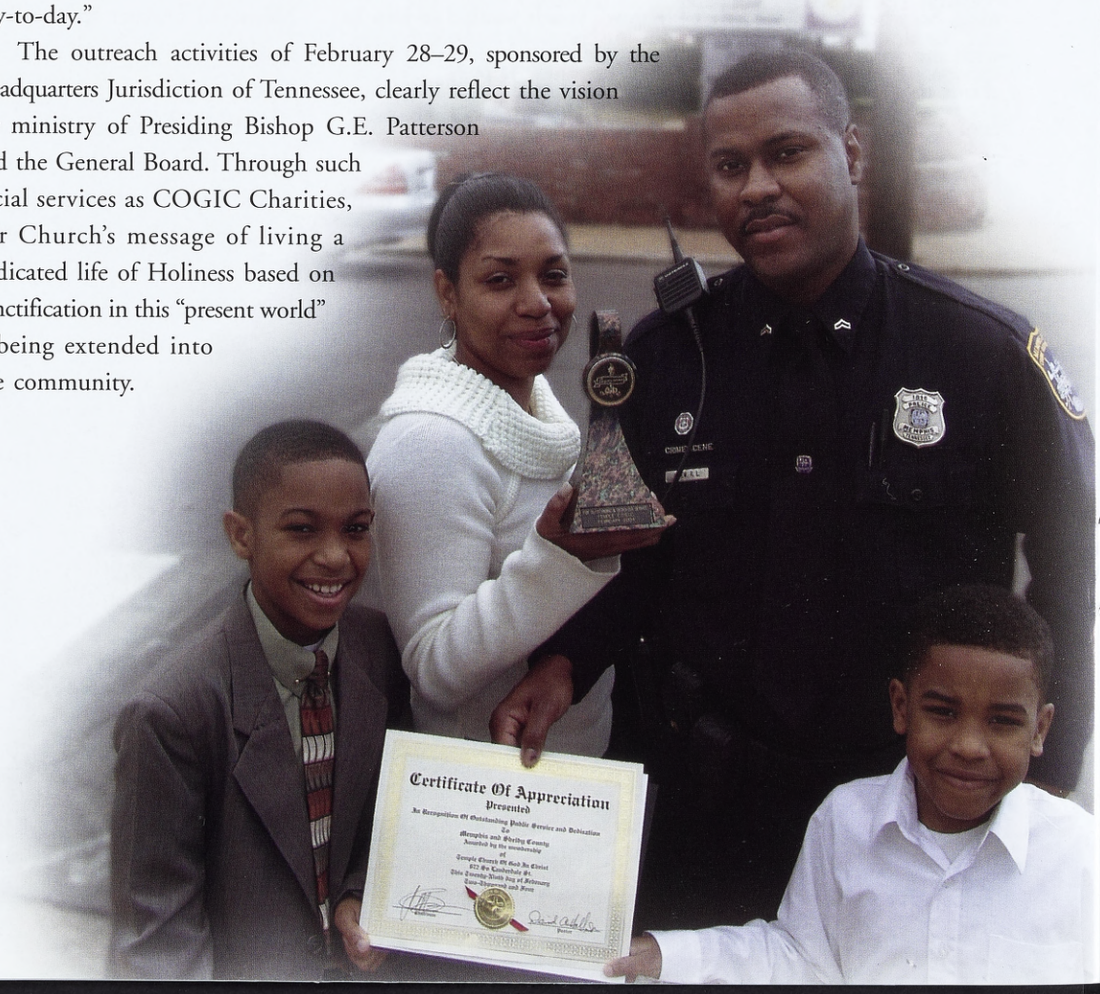
The rank and file officers of the Memphis Police and Fire departments along with the elected public officials were honored by the membership at Temple. Pastor Hall said he was inspired to hold a special honor service for our public servants after reflecting on the devastating impact that the terrorist's attacks of 9-11-01 had on our nation.

"Memphis has the same quality of individuals serving our community as New York did on that fateful day," Dr. Hall observed. "We simply wanted to demonstrate our love and appreciation to our public servants without having to have such a horrendous event."

Dr. Hall's text for Public Service Appreciation Day was taken from Zechariah 8:1–6. His theme, *Living In the City*, focused on worshipping God in a city of peace that reflects His love.

The elected officials were so impressed with Dr. Hall's powerful presentation that many of them asked for an audio cassette of the message. The Honorable A.C. Wharton Jr., Shelby County Mayor, said he was going to submit the message into his public records. Mark Luttrell, Shelby County Sheriff, noted, "This wonderful message will help me stay focused on seeking God's help as I serve His people day-to-day."

The outreach activities of February 28–29, sponsored by the Headquarters Jurisdiction of Tennessee, clearly reflect the vision for ministry of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board. Through such social services as COGIC Charities, our Church's message of living a dedicated life of Holiness based on Sanctification in this "present world" is being extended into the community.

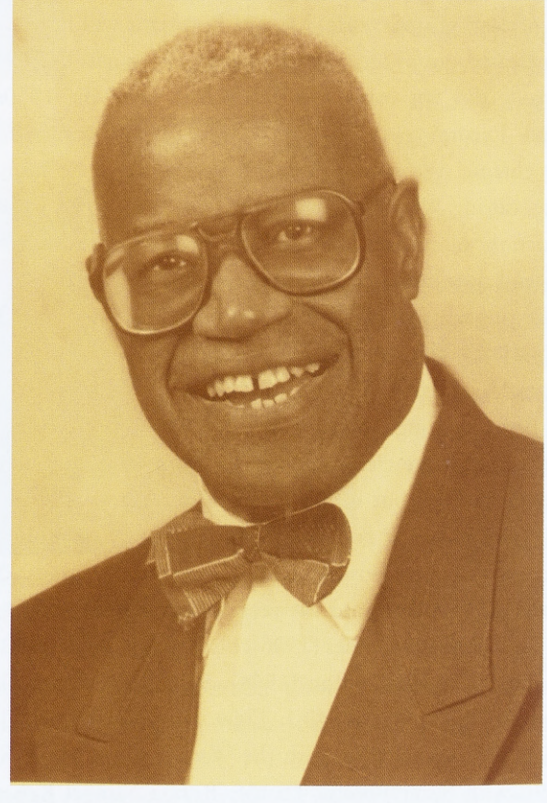


COGIC's Music Impacts Worship and the Recording Industry

by Dr. James B. Boyer

MUSICAL EXPRESSION IN THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST has always been a major aspect of both worship and institutional establishment. Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, who provided foundational leadership from 1907 until 1961, was a leader whose musical expressions influenced the entire church constituency. These historical elements offer a brief glimpse into the powerful impact of music within the Church Of God In Christ, America's largest predominantly Black Holiness-Pentecostal denomination.

The music industry is one of America's largest and most prolific institutions. Everyone likes some kind of music. It is almost impossible to reflect on the spiritual significance and the many contributions of COGIC without giving specific attention to its musical expression—whether the music is vocal, instrumental, or both.



Dr. James B. Boyer

Considering Bishop Mason's dynamic leadership of the Church, one attempts to trace the musical trends and practices from that time. Gospel music's origins consist of the slave songs, the field hollers, and the chants of Black Americans with rural backgrounds. The COGIC constituency at that time was primarily rural, Southern, and heavily engaged in farming and the agrarian way of life. Although the constituency is quite changed today, the strand of musical influence is still related in much of what COGIC services (and especially ***musicals***) emphasize today.

Most people agree that "Music is the Universal Language!" It speaks to everyone. COGIC has always encouraged the "Singing Evangelists"—those who would sing as part of worship and revival services. COGIC songs were often declarations of faith and musical testimonies. In almost every instance, Bishop Mason encouraged the saints to sing differently, live differently, and "minister" differently. This difference was to develop pride in being COGIC saints—and to further establish COGIC music as characteristically different from the traditional hymns employed by other denominations.

COGIC music, in many instances, defied formal musical documentation. Western European musical language could not actually define what COGIC was doing "musically," so musicologists tried to ignore it. Perpetuation, however, was strong and consistent through a powerful network within the Church (which grew to all states—and is now in 53 countries) and also through the increased exposure by radio and recordings.

Historically, it should be remembered that radio was relatively young in the early 1900s, and recordings came slightly later. COGIC embraced a democratic approach to singing—and didn't organize choirs until much later than the 1907 organizational date. The singing evangelists, however, carried COGIC music wherever they went. Because the Church Of God In Christ was also struggling for a higher level of respect (even in the African American community), it did not always welcome singers who were not part of the COGIC network.

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Pastors and Evangelists wanted to be sure that the "singers were saved and sanctified" before they could present their music within the walls of the Church Of God In Christ.

In almost any COGIC Church, one can hear a series of Blood Songs such as *I Know It was the Blood, Oh the Blood of Jesus!—The Blood Done Signed my Name* and others. In recent decades, Andrae Crouch's *The Blood Will Never Lose its Power* has become as well known as the older Blood Songs.

The first COGIC person to make a recording was Sister Arizona Dranes, a blind pianist-singer from Texas. Sister Dranes was taken to Chicago by the Bishop (then Elder) Samuel Crouch for her first recordings with the Okeh Label in 1926. Two of her songs were subsequently released on Columbia Records compilations of early gospel music. Musical historians will indicate that the increased use of recordings came in 1930s and the 1940s—but really did not come into full bloom until the 1950s and beyond. Recordings (via radio and juke boxes) became the primary channel through which the music was to be heard. Of course, during World War II (1941–1945), materials for record production were scarce and few recordings (comparatively) were made and distributed during those years.

During what was known as the Golden Age of Gospel Music (1945–1965), thousands of recordings were made and distributed; and it is during this period that many COGIC singers made their first recordings. Most of these recordings were played on radio in both large cities and small towns—some through low-powered stations, but others through stations with more than 50,000 watts, which could be heard across 20 or more states. Some of the most visible COGIC recording artists during Gospel's Golden Age (and the year of their first recordings) follow: Sister Arizona Dranes (1926); Sister Rosetta Tharpe (1938); Sister Ernestine Washington (1944); Elder Utah Smith (1940); Sister Goldie Haynes (1940s); Elder Louis Overstreet (1947); Marion Williams (1947), with the Ward Singers; Marie Knight (1949), with Sister Rosetta Tharpe; Bishop Samuel Kelsey and Congregation (1948); Katie Bell Nubin (1949), with her daughter, Madame Emily Bram (now Bibby), (1949); The Anna Crockett Singers, including Sister Vernon Oliver Price (1951); The Boyer Brothers (late 1950s); The O'Neal Twins (late 1950s); The Gay Sisters (Evelyn and Mildred) (1950's); Sister Jessie Mae Renfro (1951); Sister Kitty Parham, with the Ward Singers (1953); The Charles Taylor Singers (1962);, and Mattie Moss Clark, with the Southwest Michigan Choir (1966).

Other outstanding COGIC voices on recordings in the 1970s, 1980s, and beyond, include Andrae Crouch, Sandra Crouch, Walter Hawkins, Edwin Hawkins, The Clark Sisters, Timothy Wright, Tramaine Hawkins, and the entire Winans singing aggregations. Of course, many of these singers are no longer active with COGIC, but launched their musical careers while being nurtured by the COGIC traditions of music. It was quite common for musical services to also be sponsored by the Y.P.W.W. (Youth Department), the Sunshine Band, the Purity Class, and certainly by Choirs, once they were organized.

While some reformations denounced the use of musical instruments with church music, COGIC has always embraced the use of instruments. Although we have orchestras, bands, and symphonic units today, the first accompaniment was the tambourine and the guitar. Later, major use was made of the piano. When the Hammond organ became commonplace in the church, its electrical power superceded the volume/sound of almost all other instruments. COGIC, however, made ample use of drums, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and numerous other instruments. All of these seem to be welcome into worship services today, in both large as well as small churches.

COGIC musical perpetuation, however, was primarily by the vocal expressions (singing). Singing denotes joy and celebration. COGIC songs tend to be characterized by rhythm, because Bishop Mason taught us that we should never deny our African heritage. Anyone who has studied our African roots will understand the role of the drum in our musical and communicative heritage. We were taught, however, to monitor the rhythm, given that many of the early saints were recently saved and separated from the "honky tonk" rhythms of worldly music—including the Beale Street influence. We were taught to reflect the "holy rhythms" which God has given us. This is why many COGIC songs, though full of spiritual fire, actually employ a more moderate beat or tempo.

While the Church Of God In Christ used music extensively in the first half of the 20th century, it was not until 1951 that Bishop Mason appointed Elder C.T. James to serve as the first National Director of Music. During this same period, Sister Deborah Mason Patterson (daughter of Bishop C.H. Mason), Sister Mattie Wiggley, and others were quite visible in COGIC music leadership. Around 1955, Sister Anna Crockett Ford was appointed National Music Director. (It should be remembered that from 1962 through November, 1968, following the death of Bishop Mason, the Church Of God In Christ was undergoing major transformation). In 1968, our first elected leader, Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr., appointed Dr. Mattie Moss Clark as National President of the COGIC Music Department. She held that position until her demise in 1994. From early 1995, Sister Lovonia Whitley of Chicago was appointed President of the COGIC Music Department, and she held that position until the election of Fourth Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson on

November 14, 2000. Shortly after this historic election, Sister Iris Stevenson was appointed President of COGIC's International Music Department, and she continues to serve in that capacity today. She has the task of carrying out the International Music Department President's responsibilities of preparing the musical presentations for all the national conventions of the church throughout the world.



Each of these national directors organized and utilized the choir format and sound for enhancing the COGIC music. The development of choirs and the choir sound, however, did not destroy the "democratic" culture of music in COGIC. In other words, many churches still invite any worship participant to sing the song appropriate to their spirit—and the musicians are "prepared" to find their instrumental keys and accompany them, not in solo format, but as part of unrehearsed, congregational singing. We hope that COGIC never loses that freedom and musical inspiration.



Top: Professor Iris Stevenson, COGIC International Music Department President; lower: the International Mass Choir singing a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the 2004 National Leadership Conference.

The first COGIC hymnal was created in 1957 and was made available through the then National Music Director, Sister Anna Crockett Ford. Unfortunately, the booklet had very limited distribution and was not widely used. Many music leaders across the country never saw it unless they were attending the National convocations in 1957–1958.

In 1982, the General Board of COGIC commissioned the compilation and publication of the *Yes, Lord!* Hymnal. This is considered one of the finest hymnals available anywhere in the United States today. It is also used by reformations other than COGIC.

During her tenure, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark (1968–1994) instituted what is known as *A Song Is Born*. This provided a platform for new, young writers of COGIC gospel music to share their songs with the national choir and possibly be included on the annual recordings Sister Clark performed with the choir—usually during the United National Auxiliaries Convention—which is now known as AIM (Auxiliaries in Ministry).

Today, hundreds of recordings exist of COGIC singers, musicians, and preachers or missionaries. Currently, Vernard Johnson—who has an independent gospel recording career as a saxophonist—heads the National COGIC orchestra.

We feel that perhaps the most anointed recording of COGIC music ever made was performed during our 71st International Holy Convocation at Historic Mason Temple, located in Memphis, Tennessee, which is home to our Worldwide Headquarters. This was in 1979, when Dr. Mattie Moss Clark was holding one of her Midnight Musicals and the resulted double-album featured the COGIC International Mass Choir in *Because He Lives*. Among the soloists on this historic recording were Betty Ransom Nelson, Richard White, Dorinda Clark, Hank Reed, and Twinkie Clark, who also was the lead organist.

Within the last three decades, the wealth of COGIC talent has grown to include publishers of gospel music, arrangers, producers, performers, and distributors of this most powerful music. For many, this gospel music, which also has an evangelistic purpose—is one of America's most moving musical expressions.

Dr. James Boyer *is the founding pastor of Fellowship Temple COGIC in Manhattan, Kansas. A distinguished educator, Dr. Boyer served as Professor of Curriculum and American Ethnic Studies at Kansas State University for more than three decades. He is a member of COGIC Scholars Fellowship, and this article was initially submitted to that organization's newsletter,* ***The Advocate****.*

The editorial staff at ***The Whole Truth*** *is very appreciative to Dr. Raynard Smith and to Dr. Boyer for bringing this article to our attention and allowing us to reprint it for the readers of this historic publication.*

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Scholarships will be awarded during the November Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee, at an annual dinner in the Peabody Hotel's Grand Ballroom.



This brilliant original oil painting of our founding father, Bishop C.H. Mason, depicted in a teaching presentation, is the work of Elder Frank Robinson. It is entitled, "Men Ought to Always Pray, and Not to Faint."

To obtain a copy of this print, call (901) 744-0477; ask for Dr. David Hall.

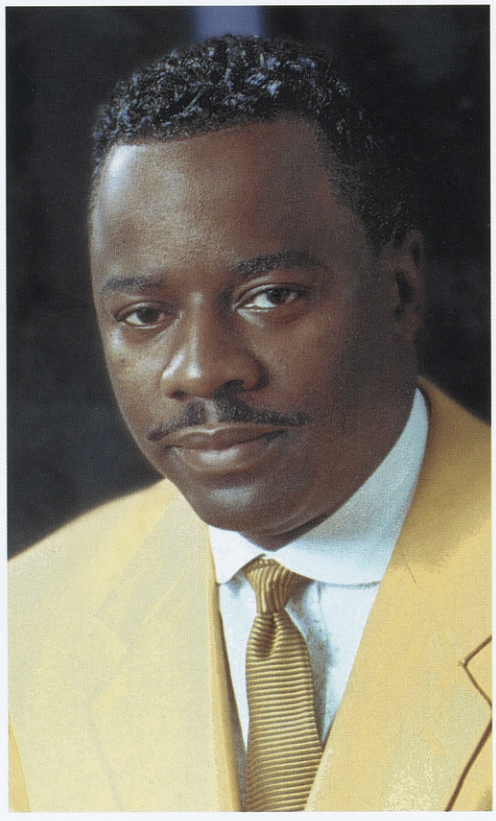
A *WHOLE TRUTH* PROFILE: ELDER RODERICK L. HENNINGS

A Man and His Vision

PASTOR • TEACHER • INTERNATIONAL EVANGELIST

Buffalo New York—APOSTLE PAUL DECLARES in Ephesians 4:11–12 (KJV)—*And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* For centuries, there has been an ongoing debate between theologians or Bible scholars concerning this scripture. Some subscribe to the belief that a person can only be effective in one venue of ministry; while others insist that God often gives an individual a multi-dimensional vision for ministry. It is not the role of *The Whole Truth* to take a particular stand or interpretation regarding a long-standing theological discussion concerning effective ministry. This publication can, however, present a paradigm of effective ministry in the form of an individual who is a powerful presenter of the Gospel, and also has an anointed three-fold ministry. Meet Elder Roderick L. Hennings, pastor of Zion Dominion Church Of God In Christ. In addition to being a visionary pastor, Elder Hennings is also an awesome teacher and dynamic evangelist.

Located in the Genesee-Hickory area of Buffalo, Zion Dominion COGIC is a local church with an international focus. It's *A Matter of Dominion* television broadcast is just one glorious example of the cutting-edge ministry that God has given to Pastor Hennings. This uplifting cable telecast is aired Monday evenings at 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the TCT Network, to more than seven million viewers around the world.



Pastor Hennings has an ongoing mission to lead his flock into spiritual and personal enrichment by challenging them to operate in God's deliverance, development, and deployment (Luke 4:16–21–10:37, John 15:1–12–16:15–18).

Christians as far away as Paris, France, and as close as Niagara, New York, are writing and sharing their praise reports with Pastor Hennings. They are explaining how God is indeed taking dominion in their lives as a direct result of them receiving a life-altering Word from God through this anointed minister via television.

The response from the television audience is indicative of the impact that Pastor Hennings' multi-faceted ministry is having on the entire Western New York area. In the short span of a decade his congregation has grown from 20 members to a flock of more than 2,500.

They worship in a historic structure that was originally built in the 19th century and was slated for demolition prior to its purchase by Pastor Hennings and the Zion Dominion family. Under the astute pastoral guidance of the dedicated minister, the building has been renovated into a striking worship edifice, which serves as *The Jewel of the Nile* for the area. In fact, Zion Dominion has the distinction of having the largest membership roll for a COGIC congregation in the Western New York area.

The elected public officials of Buffalo were so impressed with the investment that Pastor Hennings made in refurbishing Zion Dominion that they followed his exemplary leadership and declared the entire Genessee-Hickory area as a prime site for urban renewal.

Additionally, the city fathers viewed the progressive pastor's commitment to establish an elegant worship facility in the Genesee-Hickory district as part of his mission to minister to the entire area as an investment into the community. They honored this commitment to excellence by renaming the stretch of Genesee Street that runs east to west from Jefferson Avenue to Downtown Buffalo Roderick L. Hennings Way.

The prominent pastor also serves with distinction in the Church Of God In Christ First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Western New York, where Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson serves as the jurisdictional prelate. As Chairman of the Ordination Board for the jurisdiction, Pastor Hennings has revamped the examination process to ensure a more comphrehensive and cohesive method of ordaining elders.

THE CALL TO SERVE

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Roderick L. Hennings was born in 1962. He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at

age 17. Shortly after being saved, he realized that God had a specific purpose and path for his life. The multi-talented minister was 18 years old when he answered The Call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was ordained as an Elder in the Church Of God In Christ in 1982, and many saints noted that he had a "mark to serve with excellence" upon his life at that time.

Elder Hennings quickly confirmed God's call to service by dedicating himself to the duties of an associate minister. His compassion and passion for ministry were the motivating forces that led him into the community service arena. In 1985, Elder Hennings received the prestigious Outstanding Young Man honor from the Outstanding Young Men of America Inc. This world-renowned organization paid tribute to Elder Hennings for "outstanding professionalism, superior leadership ability, and exceptional service to his community."

In 1986, Elder Hennings was appointed Assistant Pastor of New Beginnings Ministries in Youngstown, where he served with distinction. He followed the directive of God in 1987 to relocate to Buffalo, N.Y. Upon arriving in Buffalo, he joined Holy Temple COGIC, where he was later appointed Youth Pastor.

He began his pastorate at True Word Holiness COGIC in 1991, where he began to develop his international concept for ministry. In 1993, Pastor Hennings founded Zion Dominion, where his legacy of outstanding service to humankind through ministry continues.

THE COVENANT MAN

This distinguished minister of the Gospel is internationally acclaimed as the Covenant Man. He earned this esteemed honor by stressing in his various presentations that God has established a covenant with us through His son Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:28, Hebrews 12:24–13:20).

He stays especially focused on that fact when offering counseling to those couples who are seeking reconciliation for their troubled marriages. Pastor Hennings is fully aware that his covenant walk with the Lord starts in his home—and that he has been charged by God to rule his house well (Genesis 2:24, I Timothy 3:1–10). He has been married to his lovely wife, Pamela, for more than 15 years. First Lady Hennings stands faithfully by her husband's side in ministry, and boldly declares that her primary Call by God is to minister to her husband and to assist in the rearing of their two beautiful daughters, Ariane and Chloe.

In his role as a caring pastor, loving husband, and devoted father, Pastor Hennings states that his core commitments and priorities are, "To make an invisible God visible; to complete the assignment and mandate that God has given me in ministry; to celebrate my union with, and love for, my wife; and to protect the virginity of my daughters."

A VISION FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastor Hennings has been blessed by God to establish a wide scope of effective Bible-based ministries. The compassionate shepherd has an ongoing mission to lead his flock into spiritual and personal enrichment by challenging them to operate in God's deliverance, development, and deployment (Luke 4:16–21– 10:37, John 15:1–12–16:15–18).

In keeping with his global focus for ministry, Pastor Hennings has worked with the Zion Dominion family to sponsor outreach missions to countries such as Mexico, Haiti, and Africa. His in-reach/out-reach approach to ministry includes helping meet the various needs of the less fortunate citizens of Buffalo. He established Dominion Charities to serve as his congregation's community outreach arm—and the outreach initiative has proven to be extremely effective in assisting with the effort to improve the quality of life for many of the area's poor.

Other focused pastoral ministries include: Elders' Council, Deacons' Board, Mother's Board, Men's Department, Women's Department, Youth Department, Abraham and Sarah Senior's Ministry, Beautification, Children's Church, Covenant Ministry, Ezekiel Outreach, Fine Arts, Hospitality, Liturgical Dancers, Manna Ministry, Media, Music, Shepherd's Ministry, Ushers, Unmarried Ministry, and Zion Academy.

One of the scriptures that Elder Hennings uses for a call to action in his role as a pastor is the Third Epistle of John, verse 2 —*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health.* Putting that verse into action, he established *BreakthroughSunday*, an event which encouraged his congregation to observe AIDS awareness by leading them in a time of AIDS/HIV testing. In fact, he was one of the first COGIC pastors in the Western New York area to address the AIDS' epidemic in such a forthright manner. This committed preacher has also addressed the issue of the devastating impact that prostate cancer is having on African-American males. He invited representatives from the American Cancer Society to stop by Zion Dominion and talk to the men of his congregation about the importance of prostate screening for cancer detection.

The urgent need to increase organ donations in the African-American community was the theme of the day when officials from the Upstate New York Transplant Services visited Zion Dominion. Once again, Elder Hennings was one of the first local African-American pastors to sponsor such an event at his church.

Seed Sunday was a day of sacrificial giving in support of ministry at Zion Dominion. In a special and unique move of the Holy Ghost, Pastor Hennings was led to call some members of his flock forward to be a recipient of an offering. The insightful pastor chose members who were in good standing and had pressing personal outstanding debt that needed to be paid in full soon. He explained that by helping the members resolve their personal debts, they then in turn would have more money to invest into "the Kingdom of God."

Elder Hennings' holistic approach to ministry serves as a shining example of what can be attained for the Glory of God in our beloved COGIC. His concept of a local church with a global focus puts a whole new spin on full-time ministry.

The impact of his evangelistic ministry has indeed brought Pastor Hennings to the attention of the affluent sector of our nation, both in the church and the public service arena.

AN AWESOME TEACHER

In his teaching ministry, Pastor Hennings stresses the importance of applying God's word to every aspect of your life. He subscribes to the theology that *the Saints of the Most High God should reflect His majesty daily* (Matthew 5: 13-16, II Peter 2: 1-5, James 1: 22-25).

Whether it's in his weekly pastoral teaching session or a special men's retreat, Pastor Hennings enlightens the participants on the importance of being *all that you can be* for the Lord. He often tells the men of his congregation that their service to God starts at home. Well manicured lawns, being well-groomed, and being sensitive and responsive to the concerns and needs of your wife and children are all traits of a godly man, he says.

Through his teaching ministry, the well-versed and dapper minister challenges every segment of the body of Christ to be elevated in their minds and never cease to seek ways to first uplift themselves which then enables them to uplift others in the Lord. An individual needs only to look at the impact that Zion Dominion's ministry is having on the membership and the community at large to note the effectiveness of Pastor Hennings' teaching ministry.

It is no wonder that he is in great demand throughout the nation in his role as a teacher. In fact, scores of pastors have rearranged their church's activity calendar so that Elder Hennings would be available to serve as facilitator at their men's retreat.

THE EVANGELIST

An extremely effective communicator of God's Holy Word, Pastor Hennings travels extensively throughout the year in his role as an evangelist. People from all walks of life and every segment of the community are testifying of how they were redeemed, encouraged, and inspired after hearing a message concerning the Good News of the Gospel and salvation through Jesus, delivered to them by Elder Roderick L. Hennings.

A true ambassador for Christ, Pastor Hennings ministers to the entire community by serving with the following organizations: Chairman of the Buffalo Leadership Commission on AIDS, member of the Western New York Leadership Summit, and member of the Board of Directors for the local Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Additionally, Pastor Hennings established a partnership with a social services group known as Hipevale, Inc. This innovative pact allows him to offer spiritual guidance for girls between the ages of 11–17 who are experiencing emotional difficulties. He also counsels women who are in a similar state.

Another initiative of this community-focused pastor involved successfully networking with Verizon and HSBC banks to become corporate sponsors for a computer lab at Zion Dominion. The banks underwrote the expenses for the purchase of 10 state-of-the-art computers, which are used to teach computer classes that are open to the entire community.

The impact of his evangelistic ministry has indeed brought Pastor Hennings to the attention of the affluent sector of our nation, both in the church and the public service arena. In 2001, our Chief apostle named him Vice President of COGIC's International Youth Department. Later, the President of the Men's Department, Bishop Darrell Hines, tapped him to serve on that department's board of directors.

United States Attorney General John Ashcroft has extended his personal invitation for Elder Hennings to sit in on meetings dealing with national policy. Bishop Henry J. Mansell, former head of the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, valued the godly counsel and insight of the GOGIC leader.

These prominent leaders realize the significance of having the input of an anointed vessel of God who has a multi-dimensional view and call for ministry. Bishop Hines reinforced that point when he asked Pastor Hennings to give the keynote address at the 2003 Holy Convocation Men's Day Service. As more than 3,000 men listened to him give the address, many were moved to stand up an say *Amen!* to what was truly an eloquent and provocative Word from God.

Yes, as the gifted minister spoke on the theme *Blind For Now*, it seemed as if the Angels in Glory also paused from their ongoing praise to lend special support to his expounding of the Gospel. The editorial staff at *The Whole Truth* believes that Pastor Hennings is indeed a *Man Among Men.*

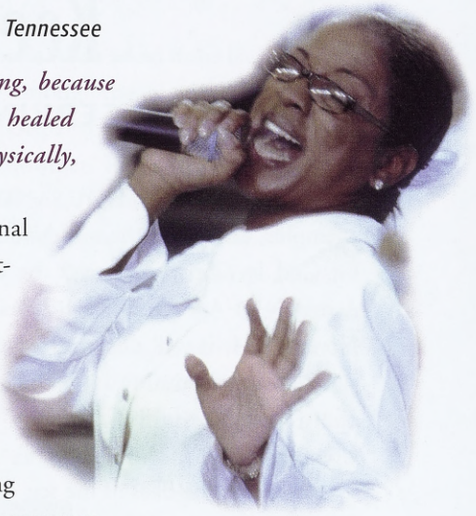
Missionary Carlotta Adams and Sister Nicole Hue were contributors to this profile.

An extremely effective communicator of God's Holy Word, Pastor Hennings travels extensively throughout the year in his role as an evangelist. People from all walks of life and every segment of the community are testifying of how they were redeemed, encouraged, and inspired after hearing a message concerning the Good News of the Gospel and salvation through Jesus, delivered to them by Elder Roderick L. Hennings.

International Chairlady, Evangelist Joyce Rodgers

Ministering with Compassion to the Total Person

By Nancy L. Deville, Member of Pentecostal Tabernacle COGIC, Nashville, Tennessee



EVANGELIST JOYCE L. RODGERS is very passionate about the task God has given her—to minister healing to those who are hurting, while ushering people into their God-ordained destinies. Her vision for evangelism embodies Isaiah 61:1b–2, *To bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord…to comfort all that mourn.*

Aside from serving as International Chairlady of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. Youth Department, this founder and chief executive officer of Primary Purpose Ministry, Inc.—an interracial, interdenominational organization—and being a sought-after evangelist active on the local, district, and jurisdictional levels, Ms. Rodgers is now adding "author" to her list of accomplishments.

In her first release, *Fatal Distractions*, Evangelist Rodgers examines situations and dilemmas that often plague women, while offering them biblical solutions for experiencing a victorious life despite encountering adversity.

"One of the definitions for the word *fatal* is to bring to ruin. I found that there were things that I had gone through that almost caused me to ruin my purpose and destiny in Christ Jesus," Evangelist Rodgers said of her inspiration for writing the book. "There wasn't one particular thing that caused me to write the book, rather it was a concert of things that were brought about to put my life in writing."

Joyce Rodgers says she hopes women reading the book will recognize that despite life's challenges and obstacles, there is always a higher level that one can achieve attain.

"Jeremiah 29:11 says that 'God has a plan for your life,' so my book is designed to realign people with their destiny and their purpose and let them know that there is nothing on the earthly realm that God cannot allow you to bombard your way through in order to get to what He has preplanned."

A resident of Denton, Texas, and member of the St. Andrew COGIC, Evangelist Rodgers describes her cutting-edge ministry as holistic, in that it addresses both the natural and spiritual components of one's life. She credits her grandmother, Mother Bessie Curry, for imparting into her God's direction for her life.

"I was raised by my grandmother, who was a mighty woman of God. At an early age, she spoke prophetically, saying that 'God has chosen you to be Big Momma's missionary, and you will be used mightily by God.'

"As a cheerleader in the sixth grade, the resonant voice of the Lord consumed me with these words 'you will always lead people to victory.' At that time, I was on the football field cheering a team to victory; even today my ministry affords me the blessed opportunity to lead people to victory in Christ Jesus."

"I teach from a very simplistic standpoint and simple gospel that is filled with humor, because that's who I am," she said. "My personality is one of humor, enthusiasm, and anointing. I do a lot of talking about healing, because I believe people need to be healed mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually."

Serving as International Chairlady of the Youth Department, Evangelist Rodgers works along side Youth President Pastor Brandon Porter. She has many goals for the department in 2004, as it continues striving to equip youth with the necessary training to live a victorious life in Christ.

"We want to unify the youth programs throughout the Church Of God In Christ, starting on the local level and moving all the way up to the national level," she said. "We want to design and implement programs that will address every aspect of the youth's life. The one program that I am very interested in is the Young Women of Excellence, which promotes young girls at an early age to be women of excellence in the natural realm and the spiritual. It addresses everything from etiquette, entrepreneurship, and money management to develop personal ministry at an early age," she said.

While she continues to travel the country presenting the Word of God, Joyce Rodgers desires to write more books that discuss the often-fatal things that can keep individuals from fulfilling their destiny.

"I desire to write *Fatal Distractions* with an emphasis on men and one for teens. My ultimate desire is to have Primary Purpose sponsor a transitional home which will transition women from welfare to work. We would actually take them off welfare, bring them into my transitional home and give them job training and job placement and send them out to become valuable citizens of their community. That home will be called 'Big Momma's House,' after my grandmother because she was about transition."

Mother Curry's nurturing of her granddaughter places a spotlight on the crucial role that is so lovingly carried out by the godly mothers of COGIC. Often they stand in the gap for their biological and spiritual daughters. This saintly grandmother has an additional reason to rejoice as she takes her rest with the Lord.

In the meantime, Evangelist Rodgers is continuing to empower people to go beyond their comfort zones, challenging them to advance to a place in God that is usually unfamiliar, inspiring and leading many to walk in victory and reminding us all of the power of praise.

For more information about Evangelist Joyce Rodgers and Primary Purpose Ministries, call (940) 323-0754 or visit www.primary-purpose.org.

Mother Allean Mabone, Keeper of the McGlothen House

GRACIOUSLY SERVING OTHERS THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

EACH YEAR THOUSANDS OF SAINTS travel to Memphis, Tennessee, the worldwide Headquarters of the Church Of God In Christ, to attend the Call Meeting of the General Assembly in April and the International Holy Convocation in November. It is well documented that the local hotels are hard pressed to accommodate the saints, especially during the Holy Convocation.

Gone are the days of the segregated South, when the saints had to seek lodging with the residents of the city. God has so blessed the members of the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination that today every segment of Memphis seems to be focused on being hospitable when the saints are in town. In South Memphis there is an historic residence that pays tribute to a pioneer in the Church Of God In Christ Women's Department while continuing the tradition of providing upscale lodging for the leading women of our church. Located at 707 Edith Street, the McGlothen House is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Dr. Mattie Mae Carter-McGlothen, the fourth General Supervisor of the International Women's Department and the third President of the Women's International Convention of the Church Of God In Christ.



Mother Mabone enjoys a moment with Dr. David Hall Sr.

The attractive two-story structure has 12 rooms that are available for State Supervisors and their aids during the April Call Meeting and Holy Convocation. This saintly manor is filled with pictures, plaques, and other memorabilia that record Mother McGlothen's numerous contributions to her church and country. The awesome responsibility of maintaining that facility and the two adjacent properties falls on Mother Allean Mabone, who has the distinction of being the "Keeper of the McGlothen House."

Mother Mabone is a tall and stately saint of God. Her olive complexion fairs well with her brownish gray hair, and her countenance displays a radiant glow as she discusses her duties at the McGlothen House. This gracious servant of God has been a member of Temple Church Of God In Christ for 38 years, and has more than 30 years of experience in management. Mother Mabone's daughter, Anita, an International Manager at Swift Transportation, often uses her vacation time to assist with the day-to-day operations during the April Call Meeting and Holy Convocation.

"I don't look at this position as just a job," Mother Mabone explained to *The Whole Truth*. "This really is ministry. We are providing support to the great women of the Church Of God In Christ, who too have been called by God to be a witness of His son Jesus Christ, and to share His message of salvation, healing, and deliverance to a dying world."

Anita Mabone echoed her mother's sentiments about her role at the facility. "Our guests are leaders in the International Women's Department, and they are involved in ministry," she said. "Mother and I are here for them. We don't simply prepare meals and assist them with other personal needs, we also listen to their various concerns and share our testimonies with them as well. We render both spiritual and southern hospitality here at the McGlothen House." This saintly brand of southern hospitality includes preparing the three basic meals of breakfast, lunch, and dinner. All of the meals are cooked in-house by the dedicated mother and daughter management duo. They also check with each guest to make sure the meals adhere to any diet or medical requirements. In addition, Mother Mabone maintains a schedule for the residents to ensure all medication is taken on time and as prescribed.

Then there is cleaning to be done, and the coordinating of the transportation for the various services and meetings. Well, you get the picture—the Mabone women are in full swing during each April Call Meeting and Holy Convocation.

In fact, their schedule is so demanding that they don't get a chance to attend any of the services or workshops at the

International Holy Convocation. Anita Mabone noted that the gracious guests have established a tradition of bringing the Holy Convocation to them—"They bring us tapes of the services and workshops, along with programs, bulletins, and their personal highlights," recalled Anita Mabone, who heads the Pastor's Aid Committee at Temple COGIC. "Sometimes the mothers start to rejoice while they are sharing with us how God had moved in a particular service. It is so sweet and special … that it seems as if we were actually there with them at the Holy Convocation."

Mother Mabone said this special fellowship with the State Supervisors and their staff members has given her a deep appreciation for the women's ministry of COGIC, and especially for the administrative abilities of Mother Willie Mae Rivers. "Mother Rivers is an excellent administrator to whom God has given a special vision and insight for ministry," she said.





Top: Fourth International Supervisor, Dr. Mattie McGlothen (seated right) with her staff. Lower: The Mabones and Atkins fellowship after a service at "The Founder's Church." From left: Melika Atkins, Mrs. Earnestine Atkins, Deacon Willie Atkins, Mother Allean Mabone, and her daughter, Anita Mabone.

Mother Mabone noted that because Mother Rivers had worked her way up the chain of leadership with the International Women's Department to become the International Supervisor, she is keenly aware of the crucial role that the women of COGIC play in ministry. "Mother Rivers is cognizant of the fact that the women of the Church Of God In Christ have always been involved in ministry," she observed. "They are involved with prison ministries, they minister to the sick and shut-in, and they have prayer bands. Many of the leaders of this grand ole church are saved today because they attended a prayer meeting headed by a woman or heard the Gospel message at a church that was prayed out by a woman. Others were saved after hearing an anointed woman of this church deliver a Word from the Lord."

For the past 19 years, the veteran manager has added her own chapter to the rich legacy of the women's ministry in our Church. Working faithfully under the "very efficient" supervision of Mother Elizabeth Nash, Assistant International Supervisor to International Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers, Mother Mabone has earned the respect and support of the entire leadership of the Department of Women.

They appreciate the immaculate state of the properties, the delicious food, and the genuine concern that is shared with all of the guests. Mother Mabone reiterates that she performs her duties for the Department of Women as a "ministry unto the Lord." She adds that she considers the guests of the McGlothen House to be a part of her extended family.

She displayed a radiant smile when asked if she had a favorite among the distinguished State Supervisors and replied, "Yes, Mother Rosie Graham of Little Rock, Arkansas. She is so precious, and she is 102 years old."

When Mother Mabone is not ministering at the McGlothen House, she is an active member at Temple COGIC, known as the Founder's Church because it was established by our founding father, Bishop C.H. Mason. Over the years she has served with distinction under the pastorates of Elder Bob Mason, Elder J.O. Patterson Sr., Elder J.E. Booker, and for the past 12 years, Dr. David Hall Sr.

"It is so rewarding for me to see how the Lord has moved through the ministry at Temple down through the years," she said. "The faces have changed, but the message of traditional holiness has remained the same."

Mother Mabone said she often reflects on God's call to holiness while performing her daily duties. Psalm 139 is the scripture she uses for her call to action. "In this Psalm David reflects on the omnipotence and sovereignty of God," she said. "God is in control and if I continue to live for Him, He will keep me in control."

Dr. Mattie McGlothen went home to be with the Lord on May 4, 1994. During her lifetime, she was the epitome of the virtuous COGIC women. She was an anointed speaker and provided exemplary leadership to the Department of Women. The visionary mother was highly respected by people from all walks of life and various denominations.

Today, as she rejoices with the Lord in her heavenly home, Dr. McGlothen's legacy is presented in the same dignified way in which she lived at a special residential/executive-suites-type facility named in her memory. In fact, her commitments to holy living, being a loving mother and supportive church member are all well reflected in the life of Mother Allean Mabone,

Keeper of the McGlothen House.

One Person Can Make a Difference

According to Evangelist Romanetha Stallworth

by Glenda Williams-Goodson



Everett and Romanetha Stallworth

IN OVER A DECADE of private practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist, Evangelist Romanetha Stallworth's combination of prayer and sound counseling has changed lives. This simple strategy has caused her to be sought after in academic, sociological and religious arenas. She recalls that this formula worked for her best friend and grandmother, Albertine. "Many times she would sit me in her lap and tell me that God would use me one day." As she ministered the Word of God and sang during the 2003 Women's International Convention, she had no idea her message would also positively effectuate change in the Church Of God In Christ, thus fulfilling her grandmother's prophecy.

It's the nature of music to draw us in—and almost from the moment she could talk, Romanetha Williams started singing. At age three, she drew people closer to God with a delightful rendition of *Yes Jesus Loves Me* at her home church. "We had a wonderful pastor and I thank God for my Baptist roots which made me God-conscious. I would sing all the time and when our pastor got up I'd be singing," she said with a laugh. The pastor of the Ash Street Baptist Church told her mom to leave her alone … that she'd be a singer one day.

The fourth of eleven children, this Evangelist was born in Dermott, Arkansas, which was so small that "the train didn't stop there—you had to jump off." Her parents, Blanche and Ollie James Sharp, separated when she was young—but in towns of the segregated south like Dermott, plenty of role models were available. "We were raised by everyone and if something got back to my mother, I'd get another whipping." Her mother and grandmother were formidable allies in caring for the family. "My grandmother would say, "Netha, you're different from all the others … one person can make a difference, and with the help of God, you could be that one person." By the time she was in middle school, she was working in the church, singing in the choir, and representing her church at the Baptist conferences. She'd also weathered many trials. "When I'd get hurt, I'd go to my grandmother, put my head in her lap, and she'd pray for me."

Psychologists tell us that many events shape a life and Romanetha fondly recalls teachers who developed her speaking ability by giving her speeches to recite. Her grandmother also insisted that she should read, and between the ages of 8 and 9, she read works by authors such as Paul Lawrence Dunbar and T.S. Elliot. "While I could go to grandmother when I was hurting, she was stern. She told me I was smart—and made me read. Her caring method of urging me to read stimulated my interest in those books." Forcing her to read paid off and she was a sought-after student when recitals for Lady MacBeth or the Creation were to be performed. At Chicot County Elementary and High School, "everything I could get in I was in … academically, my mama didn't play around, so I made good grades. And whatever potential the instructors saw in their students, they brought out."

She accepted Christ as her Savior while she was very young, and was baptized. She sensed a nagging doubt, however, that she couldn't pinpoint, and she felt that something was missing. "I would hear a good message and would remember it and be good all week but … I had a quick tongue and I would fight." She started writing songs and with a group of four friends and they formed an R&B group called the Charmettes. "The five of us were in the same class and we were making a name for ourselves."

But God had other plans and used His servants to draw her closer to Him. "I was in the 9th grade when God began to draw me to holiness. My homeroom, science, and biology teacher, Lucille Marshall Washington, was sanctified. She would tell me that the Lord wanted me to use my gift for Him." Mrs. Washington told the kids that God had more to give them. One Sunday, she took a group of her students to the Trinity Temple Church Of God In Christ in Pine Bluff, Arkansas."We were in Sunday school and Mother Grimm asked us this question: 'How many of you, when you get upset, a bad word slips out?' I raised my hand because I never believed in telling myself a lie." Mother Grimm told the class that they "could get so much Jesus in them that He would clean the words out." Romanetha continued to sing in her church's choir but each time she would have a "slipper" she felt convicted. "I said, 'Jesus, if this is all that it is to it, you didn't have to die.' I felt that the only difference between me and a rank sinner was that I go to church—and it made me sad."

After graduation, she enrolled at the AM&N College in Pine Bluff, Arkansas (now University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff). While pursuing a degree in nutrition, she threw herself into the joys of campus life. Involved in the college choir and the Baptist Student Union Choir, she was very popular on campus. "I was going to get my college degree, we had a band, and I was in shows opening for stars who came to our campus." She was well on her way to success in the R&B field and determined to give soul singer Gladys Knight a run for her money. Little did she know that her life was about to change. Each year, the Baptist Student Union Choir sponsored a gospel extravaganza and in 1966 someone invited the 60-voice Trinity Temple COGIC Radio Choir. "The two key factors that got my attention about these young people were that they sang differently and they danced!"

During those days, Stax Records in Memphis, Tennessee, was known as Soulsville USA and produced artists such as Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Booker T and the MG's, the Staple Singers and Sam and Dave. To be considered for an audition with Stax was a major advance, and Romanetha was on her way to her dream of R&B stardom. "I wrote (my sanctified teacher) Mrs. Washington, informing her that I was getting ready to make a record and would be opening for major stars." For some reason after packing her bags she told her group that she could not go to Memphis. "Mrs. Washington told me much later that she took that letter, spread it out on her bed and asked God not to let the devil have me."

After hearing the Trinity Temple Choir a second time she joined friends in visiting the COGIC congregation on a Sunday morning. "I told the girl sitting next to me that these people had something that I didn't have. Elder Hill read I John 3:8 which says 'he that committed sin is of the devil' and I felt that someone had slapped me. I knew I sinned, but did not feel that I was of the devil. When Elder Hill read the rest of the scripture, I got so much hope." She determined then that she would let Jesus destroy the works of the devil in her and on May 15, 1966, the Lord saved her. "Elder Hill said 'little lady in the pink suit, how do you feel?' and I told the saints that I felt brand new."

The news that traveled back to the campus quickly was difficult for her boyfriend, Everett (now her husband of over 34 years), who confronted her. But the Lord filled her with the Holy Ghost the same day in her dorm room. "Everett said he went down to my relatives' house and said, 'Romanetha is in that mess.'" At the insistence of his friend, Everett went to church that night to rescue her. "He came up to get me and Elder Hill came between us. Everett drew back to hit Elder Hill, but God locked his arm." There was to be no trade off. The next day, she called the theater where she would open for R&B great Major Lance and told them to take her name off the marquee. On campus, the students began a noonday prayer service in the dorm and a COGIC club was formed which still exists today.

The Lord miraculously saved Everett and after graduation they married and moved to his hometown in Kentucky.

"My wife has been a great inspiration. I thought I loved her. Then I received the Holy Ghost and was so engulfed with love that I told her I knew what love really means." The couple became members of Bishop A.T. Moore's church. "On Sunday nights, our church at 19th and Cedar would be packed. We'd have tarrying services. Bishop Moore played the saxophone and we had a lot of young people who he taught holiness to." The couple have one daughter, Lori, who is also a talented artist. Recalling her grandmother's words to accept people the way they are has influenced her work as an Instructor at the University of Louisville (Institute for the Healing of Racism), where she developed and implemented therapeutic programs for children at the Center for Women and Families, acted as an expert witness in custody cases regarding domestic violence and areas in the helping professions. Her telephone constantly rings, and she thanks God for her husband's understanding and support. Observing them, the two exhibit the solidly comforting presence of those who hold their marriage in high esteem. "I thank God for my husband's leadership. He says that some might look at him and

She determined then that she would let Jesus destroy the works of the devil in her and on May 15, 1966, the Lord saved her. "Elder Hill said, 'little lady in the pink suit, how do you feel?' and I told the saints that I felt brand new."

think I'm leading him, but he sets the record straight that he'll do nothing to get in the way of the Lord's work."

She has followed the leading of the Lord, and her husband and says her life has been an adventure. Although she worked as a therapeutic and administrative dietitian for more than 16 years, her involvement in the church and outreach community efforts caused her to think about going into the field of social work. "At age 39, I wanted to go back to school. After consulting with Everett, I began the process. The Lord blessed me and a friend who worked at University of Louisville called and asked me if I was still interested in getting my master's. The day I went out I was registered in class. I also received a fellowship in the retention program for minorities." The program won the Noel Levitz Award for national recognition in college retention programs. While going through graduate school, she completed a practicum at Louisville's Center for Women and Families. She was hired at the center to supervise the children's program and developed curriculum teaching parents how to build self-esteem in their children. She worked at the rape relief center and wrote several academic articles on the subject.

Mrs. Stallworth accepted a position at the University of Louisville as Student Development Assistant to the Associate Vice President. "I was very much involved in academic life, and began working to get my doctorate." As a prayer warrior, she was ever sensitive to the nudging of the Holy Spirit and as she attempted to complete grant papers she felt a need to pray—immediately. "I could not finish those papers! I told my secretary that I would accept no more calls and I got down on the floor in my office and said to the Lord, 'What is it?'" From deep inside her spirit came the answer: she had not asked God if that was the path He wished for her to take. "It stopped me cold. I was following the natural progression of things. I then asked the Lord what he wanted me to do."

All of her, life she had the belief—and still does—that education is a primary tool for upward mobility and is indeed a journey of a lifetime. Now it seems as if the Lord would take her another way. "He said to me, 'you don't need a doctorate to do what I have for you to do.' I asked again what would He have me to do." For the record, Evangelist Stallworth champions the pursuit of excellence and doing things well. "In order for Him to say, "well done," I have to do it well," she said.

After selling out, the Lord began to reveal to her that she had been placed on a path that would not be a local mission. "Bit by bit and year by year, He began to show me evangelism and missions." Since 1976, Bishop Carlis Moody, a living legend, has dedicated his life for the cause of missions. The Stallworths were thrilled to meet him. "We went to our first Caribbean conference and met Bishop Moody. We also traveled to the Dominican Republic. Now, each year, we go to Africa with him." It was in Africa that the Lord brought back her grandmother's words. "The first time I went to South Africa, I cried and cried. It was there that the Lord brought back to me the realization that one person could make a difference." As a result of this trip, Evangelist Stallworth has kept her vow to earmark a large portion of the monies raised through revivals for distribution in Africa, where she sponsors education for students and is involved in feeding programs, and providing clothing and Bibles.

A sold-out life is not a welcome sight to the enemy, and she has experienced times of severe testing. And, what was her response?—To stand on the promises of God, who told her that He was the "way when there was no way" God. "The Lord let me know that no matter what comes in my life, I don't have to ask Him to make the way, because He is the way." Her stand has been severely tested. "In 1979, I had a stroke, and God healed me completely through the prayers of the righteous. Through the years, the enemy tried to kill everyone in my family. My daughter had two head-on collisions. In 1999, my husband and I were both stricken with cancer and God brought us out. In 1990, my husband was given 6 months to live and God brought him out."

She thanks God for her foundation and her leaders. "I am so grateful that my mother instilled in me to do the best with what I have. The saints are wonderful. Those mothers taught me how to pray. Bishop Moore taught us about Jesus, and how to incorporate the Word of God into our busy lives. He taught us that holiness carries with it a lifestyle. I thank God for Mother Rivers and I love her. She exudes godliness and motherhood. She looks the part. When she speaks, she instills hope and encouragement. She's not chatty, but she conveys her vision. I want to be a part of her vision, I am so proud of her!"

She has received honors such as being featured in *Today's Woman* magazine in 2001, but as Bishop Moore says, "God has made her a change agent for the body of Christ." I have never regretted the day that I found the Lord in the Church Of God In Christ," she says with conviction. "I love COGIC and its teaching. I love the sustaining transformation of its doctrine. Jesus is the transformer but the COGIC doctrine sustains the transformation and causes you to grow in the transformation. The doctrine of this church, when properly taught and applied, causes people to grow in it. The doctrine is more than what people think, it's the doctrine that made us universal. I love the songs that the Holy Ghost gives this church. I love the spontaneity of the service—how we allow the Holy Spirit to order the service."

Anyone listening to the message of Jesus Christ as Evangelist Stallworth crisscrosses the country hears a message of hope, healing, and deliverance in both small congregations and mega churches. Looking back over her life, she tends not to make much of how the Lord uses her. Recently, the Lord used her to bring reconciliation to a church on the verge of a split. "I promised the Lord I would go anywhere in the world, to any race, any creed, any denomination. I would commit what He gave me to his safekeeping. I do my job and trust God to bless me to do it well. It's his job—I'm just an employee."

Dr. Oliver J. Haney Honored for Service

THE CHARLES HARRISON MASON Theological Seminary family celebrated the graduate school's 33rd Founder's Day February 25–26. The keynote speakers for this year's observance were First Assistant Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr. and the seminary's own Dr. Oliver J. Haney. On Wednesday, February 25, the community-wide evening worship service was conducted at the Cathedral of Faith Church Of God In Christ, where Elder Arthur F. Mosley is pastor and interim dean. The 33rd Founder's Day Banquet took center stage at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel on Thursday.

The Seminary is part of a theological consortium known as the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). Other member seminaries include Morehouse School of Religion (Baptist), Phillips' School of Theology (C.M.E.), Gammon Theological Seminary (United Methodist), Turner Theological Seminary (A.M.E.), and Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Presbyterian USA).



Dr. Oliver J. Haney with wife La Verne and interim dean, Elder Arthur F. Mosley.

Bishop C.E. Blake Sr. inspired the entire audience as he spoke from the theme *God's Tools*. His text was taken from Acts 9:15: *and his exegesis was nothing less than brilliant.*

Bishop Blake's powerful message concerning Jesus Christ's call to Saul of Tarsus to become Apostle Paul and carry the Gospel to the Gentiles, royalty, and the nation of Israel was well conceived and applied to the occasion. For as Paul prepared himself both in the academic and spiritual arena to do a great work for the Lord, the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary has accepted that same call to prepare champions for Christ today.

In his role as dean at the Seminary, Dr. Oliver Haney played a crucial role in both student and curriculum development. He was honored for his many contributions that were made during his 27-year tenure as dean; he spent three more years in various administrative capacities, including serving as Acting President at ITC. The veteran educator has set June 30th as his official retirement date from this distinguished institution of higher learning.

Dr. Haney graduated from Philander Smith College in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religion. His initial career at ITC began when he entered as an at-large student in 1966, and went on to receive a Master's of Divinity in Biblical Studies in1969 as well as a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1995.

He has served in the pastorate for COGIC since 1968. He currently serves as senior pastor at New Horizons COGIC in East Point, Georgia. His lovely wife of 36 years, LaVerne Haney, works with him in ministry. Mrs. Haney is also an ITC alumni, chaplain, and doctoral candidate. Dr. and Mrs. Haney are the devoted parents of one son, Oliver III, who is also a minister.

After being lauded at Wednesday's community-wide service; the following Thursday found Dr. Haney bringing the keynote address at the Founder's Day Banquet. His text for this impressive honor banquet was taken from Matthew 20:25 and he spoke from the theme *The Importance of One Gift.*

The distinguished General Board Member Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush serves as chairman of the Seminary's Board of Trustees, and was named the recipient of the C.H. Mason Distinguished Leadership Award in recognition of his exemplary leadership.

Other honorees included Celeste Dinyard, who was named Student of the Year; Larry Williams received the Distinguished Alumni Award; and Dr. Dorothy Exume received the prestigious Lizzie Woods Robinson Award.

The legendary Lizzie Robinson, for whom the afore-mentioned award was named, was the distinguished first International Supervisor of our Church, and it had been noted that her name was being confused as "Roberson" in some instances, which prompted Church scholars to conduct research to verify the correct name. Dr. David Hall, a Trustee Board member of the Seminary and CEO of the COGIC Publishing House, participated in that search.

"I was able to secure a copy of the precious mother's death certificate, which shows "Robinson" as being the accurate name," Dr. Hall advised *The Whole Truth.*

Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary is a graduate theological school designed to prepare men and women of faith for leadership in the church and society. Initial planning for our seminary began in 1965. The late Second Senior Bishop O.T. Jones Sr. played a crucial role in directing the leadership of COGIC in those opening discussions. However, it was not until the late First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr. became involved in the negotiations that authorization was granted by the General Assembly making it possible for our seminary to become the sixth constituency on the campus of ITC. The seminary is named in honor of our Founding Bishop and Father, Bishop C.H. Mason, and is hailed as the first African-American accredited Pentecostal seminary in America.

MOTHER MILDRED COLEMAN:

Profile of a Prayer Warrior

by Calvin L. Burns

SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, Elder Fred Coleman Jr. embarked on a pastoral journey, fully aware of the fact that he would encounter some "unique challenges." Today, the humble pastor is rejoicing in the Lord for blessing his ministry to experience tremendous growth both spiritually and numerically. He boldly declares that his wife, Mother Mildred Coleman, plays a vital role in the ongoing success of the work that God has given him.



"My wife's prayerful decision to make uplifting my ministry her number one priority confirmed something that God had revealed to me," Elder Coleman recalled to *The Whole Truth*. "It was His way of confirming to me that a minister's work actually starts in the home."

After reflecting on the spiritual significance of that point of emphasis, Elder Coleman followed up by stressing the importance of an active daily prayer life. "Everything that a minister does should be based on the Holy Bible and fueled by prayer," he said. "We walk with God daily; therefore, we should study His Word and pray daily. What God has blessed us to do through this ministry clearly demonstrates that a 'family that prays together' not only 'stays together'—they grow together spiritually."

In addition to her duties as a first lady and prayer leader, Mother Mildred Coleman also serves as District Missionary for the Greater Faith District, where Elder W.J. Hollins is the District Superintendent. Greater Faith is part of the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction, and has the distinction of having Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. as its Jurisdictional Prelate.

This charming and anointed woman of God remembers well the day that God called her into a prayer ministry. The year was 1987 and her husband had recently informed her of his decision to establish a church. Elder Coleman acknowledged to his wife that he realized that she might have some reservations about him establishing a church, because his two previous works in pastoral ministry "had not been as fruitful" as he would have liked for them to be. He expressed his confidence that God was indeed directing him into pastoral ministry—and that his past experiences had prepared him for the awesome task ahead.

Cognizant of the vow that she made before God and man to stand in support of her husband, Mother Coleman did indeed note some concerns that she had regarding his pastoral endeavors. Outwardly, Mother Coleman focused on sharing a warm smile of reassurance, along with words of encouragement and edification. Inwardly, however, she dreaded what her dedicated spouse had to encounter. Often, a COGIC founding pastor has to invest a good deal of his own finances into the work. Additionally, they had become very active in the ministry at their home church, Temple COGIC. Mother Coleman's strong ties to her home church, along with concerns about the various challenges that her husband was about to confront as a founding pastor, tugged at her emotions.

"Lord, what must I do?" she prayed. Then, during a time of meditation and supplication, she received a revelation, the Word of Knowledge from God, that urged her to "pray."

Initially, Mother Coleman prayed, "Lord, if this is not your will then, block it." She then recognized the move of God through a special directive of the Holy Ghost telling her to just continue to pray until His sovereign will had been fully revealed.

Meanwhile, First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr., who then also served as the Jurisdictional Prelate for the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction, was moved by God to assist Elder Coleman in establishing his latest work. Bishop Patterson gave his

Above, Mother Coleman leads a prayer service; below, she is surrounded by husband Elder Fred Coleman Jr. and family.



approval for Elder Coleman to use a building that was owned by the Headquarters Jurisdiction as the site for True Holiness COGIC. Later, Bishop Patterson would transfer the title to the structure that was located at 90 East Olive Street in South Memphis over to Elder Coleman and True Holiness.

God indeed confirmed his call, and Mother Coleman "humbled" herself and officially announced to the saints that she was leaving to support her husband's ministry. Today, she joyfully declares that she has not regretted her decision to be obedient to the move of the Lord.

"Yes, I am so glad that I humbled myself and obeyed God," Mother Coleman told *The Whole Truth*. "At first, I had to pray in order to prepare myself to accept the will of God. After allowing God to minister to me, I then was ready to receive His anointing and guidance on how to minister to others."



Mother Coleman, right, with her sister, Mother Daisy Jones.

Mother Coleman then recalled how Elder Coleman began his ministry with only eight members. The dedicated first lady established a prayer ministry at the church, and asked God to send an increase.

"We started our prayer ministry on Wednesdays at noon—a time specifically chosen in order not to conflict with other (COGIC) prayer services being held on that day," she said. "About three people attended the prayer services when we first started. But, God moved mightily in our midst; and soon there was standing room only."

Due to prayerful demand, Mother Coleman added a 9 a.m. Monday service, and another 9 a.m. service on Fridays. Just like on The Day of Pentecost, word spread quickly about how people from all walks of life and from all denominations were being blessed at the True Holiness COGIC prayer services.

"Oh, yes, God moved and is moving tremendously," Mother Coleman exclaimed in a rejoiceful tone. "People are being saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. There are healings and deliverance."

Praise God for salvation, healing and deliverance! What else could an attendee to this spirit-filled prayer service possibly desire?

Mother Coleman, indicative of a truly anointed *Prayer Warrior*, quickly adds, "demons are being cast out." She noted that prayer services are an ideal venue for those individuals who are seeking God to be set free from demonic oppression.

The anointed Prayer Warrior teaches participants not to be intimidated by spiritual warfare. Two call-to-action scriptures that she uses are Romans 12:1–2 and Ephesians 6:11–19.

"We come into the prayer services fasting, with the Word of God being taught," Mother Coleman explained. "I tell those in attendance that whether they are members of the Church of God In Christ or not, God calls for everyone to live a Holy life before Him. I direct them to Leviticus 11:44 to show them that holiness is God's way; if you are going to live a life pleasing to Him, then, there is no other way that you can have salvation and eternal peace."

Mother Coleman's rich legacy in holiness can be traced to our founding father, Bishop C.H. Mason. She served under his ministry at the original Temple located at 672 S. Lauderdale.

"Praise God for Bishop C.H. Mason," she said. "It is because of his ministry that I grasped the importance of prayer. You see, prayer is the foundation for any ministry, and that's why we pray for a Holy Ghost breakthrough for all ministries in our prayer."

The prayers are going up, and the people are indeed coming in. In fact, many are taking their lunch breaks to be in prayer with Mother Coleman. Others are journeying in from other parts of the world to pray.

"People have come into this prayer service from as far away as Paris, France, to received their deliverance," Mother Coleman said. "God has confirmed His Word to use this prayer ministry as a source of transformation—first for us (True Holiness) and, then, for whosoever would come."

Mother Coleman was referring to how God has blessed True Holiness to be renamed Greater True Holiness. Also, the original well-worn and outdated building at 90 E. Olive has been torn down and replaced with an attractive contemporary worship facility.

Pastor Coleman shared with *The Whole Truth* how his membership has "grown significantly over the years, as have we (True Holiness), and then, whosoever would come."

Pointing out that Mother Coleman had a highly successful career as a medical professional before joining him in full-time ministry, Pastor Coleman credits that experience in preparing her for outreach.

"Working in a doctor's office put my wife on the frontline in dealing with people who were hurting both physically and emotionally," he said. "The prayer ministry that God gave her is an effective outreach ministry for us at Greater True Holiness. As a pastor, I have met so many people who I might not otherwise have known had it not been for the prayer ministry."

The personable minister also thanked God for his three sons, who joined in with him and Mother Coleman to support the ministry while it was still in its early stages.

"I thank God for my precious wife," he said. "Yes, she is a Prayer Warrior, and she is very much an inspiration. Although she is not a preacher, she is definitely involved in ministry. What is so moving to me about her prayer ministry—and I cannot emphasize enough that this is the Lord's doing—is that He first had her pray in order to condition herself for ministry, so that He could use her to change the conditions in the lives of other people through prayer."

"... God calls for everyone to live a Holy life before Him ... holiness is God's way ..."

A COGIC ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE:

Laurence V. Plummer

PRESIDENT OF PLUMMER FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC

MINISTER LAURENCE V. PLUMMER PERSONIFIES the adage: working from dusk to dawn, day in and day out, to get the job done. This dedicated brother in Christ is President of Plummer Financial Services, LLC. In addition, the dapper and articulate entrepreneur serves as Church Administrator at Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ, where our internationally renowned Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is senior pastor. Whether it's assisting our Chief Apostle in attending to the worship and spiritual needs of more than six thousand active members at Temple of Deliverance or providing professional guidance for one of his clients, Mr. Plummer is focused on the task of offering products and services to meet the various needs of the citizenry.



Laurence Plummer

He notes that Plummer Financial Services provides an array of products and services that include investment strategies and risk management, as well as overseeing estate, personal, business, and funding designed to meet a variety of financial goals. Mr. Plummer emphatically stated that he makes it a point to provide the appropriate financial package for the unique financial goals of each of his clients.

"My philosophy is to recommend only what is suitable for each customer and to assist them in achieving their goals—and, ultimately, financial independence," says Plummer, who is a life-time member of the Million-Dollar Round Table and a long-time member of the International Association of Financial Planners (IAFP).

Mr. Plummer explained that it is crucial to have the proper financial service to meet the unique needs of a particular family or individual. Otherwise, the products could be inadequate. The committed entrepreneur beamed as he recalled the satisfaction of knowing that his strategy of working long and hard for his customers often pays off for them in a time of crisis.

"Many times, clients or their spouses have called to thank me for being there for them," he said." "It is at those times that they realize the significance of having a financial professional who is willing to go the extra mile for them."

Mr. Plummer has worked with a large number of clients, ranging in professions from stars and players in the National Basketball Association and the National Football League, families with prestigious listings such as *Who's Who*, to families that are headed by a single parent and those dependant on both parents to be the bread-winners.

For seven consecutive years, he was named Marketing Representative of the Year for John Hancock Insurance Company's Managerial Department. He is also a Life Member of the John Hancock Cabinet, a designation requiring a representative to be qualified as a top performer for a full decade. He is the first and only African-American to earn this status in the 140-year history of the company.

Mr. Plummer has achieved success by adhering to the philosophy of building his business through relationships and by serving the best interest of his clients. He gives each client the same intensity of focus. Whether it's a household with a combined income of less than $100,000 annually, or a celebrity who is a multi-millionaire, the astute representative is totally attuned to the cause of working for the best interest of his client.

"There is no distinction of big clients or small clients," he says. "Every client is important to us. If a client has a concern, we take care of it. That's what I tell my staff, and that's the manner in which we conduct business."

Mr. Plummer and his well-trained staff tell their clients that, "When it comes to your financial future, your first choice is the most important."

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The Whole Truth has presented the documented testimonies (see sidebar) of these appreciative clients, and the editorial staff takes pleasure in advising you of how to contact this financial professional:

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"My philosophy is to recommend only what is suitable for each customer and to assist them in achieving their goals–and, ultimately, financial independence," says Plummer, who is a lifetime member of the Million-Dollar Round Table and a long-time member of the International Association of Financial Planners (IAFP).

The clients who take advantage of the offerings provided by Plummer Financial Services, LLC, are indeed boasting about the willingness of the staff to go the extra mile. The fact that delivering exceptional service is one shining example of how Mr. Plummer's office differentiates itself from the competition is evidenced by many glowing testimonials including the following:

DAINON SIDNEY

Defensive End for the Buffalo Bills

"Once I got drafted, I knew it was time to find a financial professional. I've been a client with Plummer Financial since my rookie year in the NFL in 1998. One of my teammates referred him to me. I interviewed different financial planners, but I knew I wanted Plummer after I talked with him. He is a straight-forward, to-the-point, Johnny-on-the-spot kind of guy. I like that. He doesn't just tell you the good part, he tells you like it is. If he says he's going to do it, he does it."

BRIAN LEBLANC

Brian LeBlanc has been a client of Laurence Plummer's since 1994. After moving to Memphis with his wife from Louisiana to further their professional careers, one of his first priorities was to find an exceptional financial professional. "Several of my wife's co-workers raved about this Laurence Plummer," recalls LeBlanc. "So I had to try him out … I was first impressed with his professionalism. This man knew what he was talking about."

GROVER W. BARNES, M.D.

Dr. Barnes was not happy with the way his financial advisor was handling his affairs. He remembered Laurence Plummer and the outstanding job he had done in handling some other business issues, so he gave Mr. Plummer a call. "He straightened out some things that were clouded by the other agent," Dr. Barnes said.

DRS. RODNEY AND DENISE MARTIN

"Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to our financial well being," says Rodney and Denise Martin. "Under your guidance and direction, our family's financial future has been sustained, maintained, and established. We appreciate our long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship. Thank you for your guidance and knowledgeable instructions in the realm of finance."

COGIC on the move

By Glenda Williams-Goodson

{ NEWS FROM ACROSS THE BROTHERHOOD }

COGIC EVENTS

Local Church Builds 30 Unit Senior Facility

ST. LOUIS—In 2002, the Lord blessed the Kossuth Church Of God In Christ with a $4.2 million capital grant awarded to them from the federal government. The grant was used to build Latter Glory Manor, a 38-unit senior citizen independent living apartment building. The Latter Glory Manor is located adjacent to Kossuth's new church edifice at 3800 Newstead, St. Louis, MO 63115. Applications are currently being accepted and a grand opening was held in May 2004. For more information, contact Elder Robert D. Strong Sr., Pastor, at 314.652.4163. Kossuth is a part of the Eastern Missouri First Jurisdiction, where Bishop R.J. Ward is the Jurisdictional Prelate.

Mattie McGlothen Museum Celebrates 15th Anniversary

RICHMOND, CALIF.—The Dr. Mattie McGlothen Library/Museum located at 253 Gertrude Avenue in Richmond celebrated its 15th Anniversary in May of 2004. The Museum is dedicated to the life of the 4th General Supervisor of the Church Of God In Christ. For information please contact Mrs. Emma Clark at 510.232.4214 or 510.529.0369.

Dedric Jones Ministers Contemporary Music with Traditional Undertones

PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS— The Trinity Temple Church Of God In Christ (Elder Dewitt Hill, Pastor) was the location of a power-packed Restoration Concert sponsored by Dedric Jones and Chosen Praise. The group, which includes Tanya Stephens, Alicia Jones, Camille Ross, LaKia Butler, Erick Walker, and Myrtis Jackson, organized in October 2001 to bring forth healing, deliverance and salvation through the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Jones has been in the ministry since the age of sixteen and serves as the Minister of Music at the Main Street Church Of God In Christ (Supt. Joe. L. Stocker, Pastor). According to First Lady Ingrid Stocker, although he has an active music ministry across the state, he is faithful to the local body. "I believe God calls us to serve … we should be ready to serve whether ministering to six or 6,000. (Our group) prays and asks God to allow the Holy Ghost to sing through us," Minister Jones stated.

A prolific songwriter, he says it was a blessing to present a song entitled *Saved* to the national choir during AIM 2003. Look for the group's new project, *The Heart of David*, to be released in October of 2004. For booking information, please contact Frances Gamble at 501.563.2205. Minister Jones' prayer request to the saints is to keep the group before the Lord.

Texas Northwest Jurisdictional Women's Convention Reaches out to Women 45 & Under

FORT WORTH, TEXAS—Stating he was glad that Mother Victorine Mackey brought the young women together for training, Bishop William H. Watson set his approval on the entire Texas Northwest Women's Convention. More than thirty young women attended this first session. "I am so excited. These young women want the truth," Mother Mackey stated.

The sessions included a time of sharing, question and answers, and doctrine. "They want to know the doctrine of this church. This (45 and under gathering) has truly been a God-given vision for Mother Rivers to minister to the young women … and we thank God … (for Mother Rivers) who has the vision for this generation. A copy of "Those Sanctified Women" was included in the informational package so that the young women could better understand the history of the COGIC Women's Department.

"They had wondered if we could have it (the Convention) more than once a year. Some of the young women said, "Mother, don't change your teaching," Mother Mackey explained.

If you would like to know more about the Texas NW Jurisdiction Women's Department, please contact Mother Mackey at 806.894.0129.

Chicago's Faith Temple COGIC Pastor and Wife Celebrates 50 years of Marriage

CHICAGO—Pastor William H. Allen and First Lady Wylonn R. Allen of Chicago, Illinois, recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. In reflecting on their marriage, Pastor Allen stated that it was love at first sight. After a period of engagement the couple united in holy matrimony in 1953.

Following the leading of the Lord, he and his wife moved to Chicago and joined Roberts Temple Church Of God In Christ, under the late Bishop William Roberts. God blessed this couple with six lovely children: China, Winston, Wychelle, Wendrick, Olive and Wandria.

After being married, having children at a young age, and having a desire to do a greater work for the Lord, Elder and Sister



Send your newsworthy ***COGIC On The Move*** information to Glenda Williams-Goodson at the Church of God In Christ Publishing House, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38114.

Allen returned to school in pursuit of additional education and graduated from Governors State University. As a team, they prayed together, studied together, and graduated from college together.

On August 31, 2003 the couple renewed their wedding vows under the direction of Bishop Leroy Anderson, General Board Member of Arizona. The wedding ceremony included their six children, along with their entire extended family. The lovely couple exudes "a marriage made in heaven" and has been regarded by many as inseparable. They spent their golden honeymoon basking in the sun on six exotic islands by way of a Caribbean cruise.

Couple's Diamond Year Anniversary Celebration a Great Success

FORT WORTH, TEXAS—Something special happened on January 9, 1944—that was the year J.L. Johnson made Alma his wife. The Radisson Plaza's Crystal Ball was the site of their 60th-year wedding anniversary on January 9, 2004. Friends, children, grandchildren, and other relatives enjoyed fine dining and words of exhortation to the couple who has served as an example of loving growth throughout the years.

Dr. Johnson, Pastor of the Progressive Church Of God In Christ and Administrative Assistant to Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, recalled hopping trains to visit Lady Johnson as he vowed to win her affections enough for her consent to marry him. Admonishing attendees who were newly entering the marriage contract, he stated that love should be nurtured to grow despite difficulties. "With every passing year, (she) becomes more beautiful and precious to me," Dr. Johnson said. Of course Lady Johnson reciprocated his loving words, stating, "I've fallen more in love with you at least a hundred times for a hundred different reasons … I thank God for our love that has continued to last."

Bishop C.L. Bryant performed the Reaffirmation of Vows as well wishers witnessed this significant and joyful milestone.

COGIC MUSIC

Lucinda Moore Has New CD

BALTIMORE, MD—Lucinda Moore began singing at age four in her local church, and by the time she was a teen, she was singing with Tramaine Hawkins. Her style has been compared to Yolanda Adams, and as she ministered powerfully during the January 2004 COGIC Leadership Conference, attendees stopped her as she was exiting for information on how to hear more.

She has a new CD entitled ***Unlimited Praise***, and if you need a lift, let ***Live and Not Die*** minister to you as well as the title track, ***Unlimited Praise***.

Let us continue to support our artists! For booking information please call 601.206.9361 or 203.887.1660.

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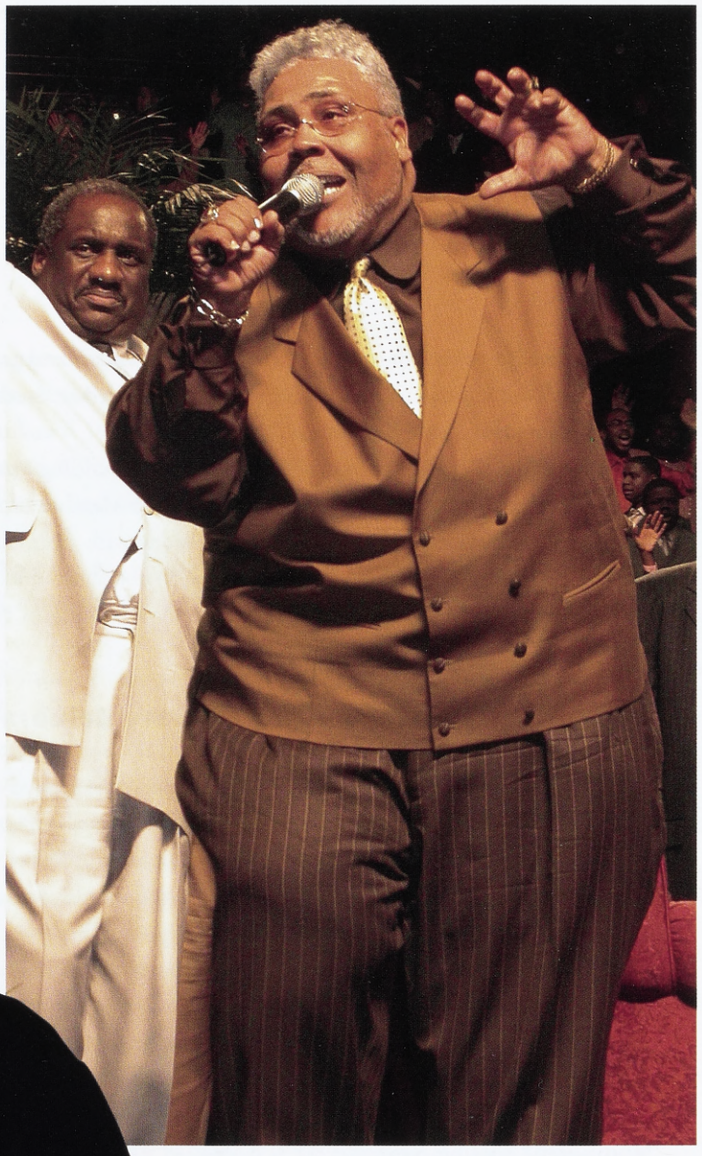
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Dr. Rance Allen

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THE MULTI-TALENTED Dr. Rance Allen is an internationally acclaimed gospel singer, as we all well know, having enjoyed and been inspired by his wonderful voice. What might not be as widely known, however, is that this anointed vessel of God is also a visionary pastor and dynamic evangelist.





IN FACT, a preaching highlight of the 96th International Holy Convocation occurred at the awesome evening service on Saturday, November 8, 2003, when Dr. Allen inspired the entire audience with his soul-stirring message, ***The Why of Praise***.

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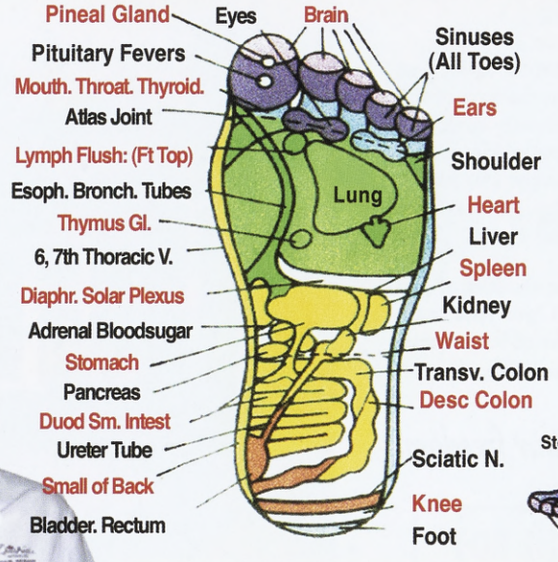
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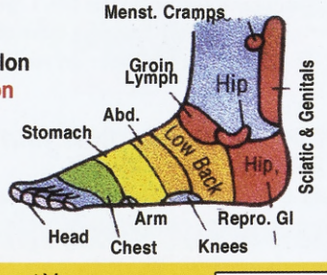
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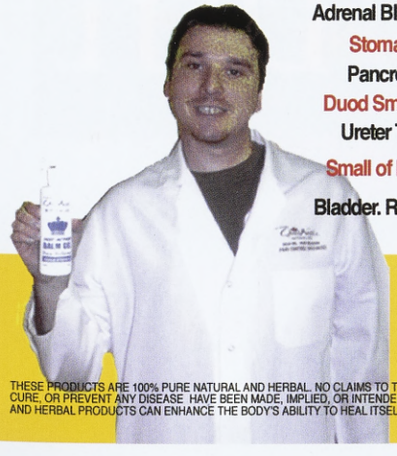




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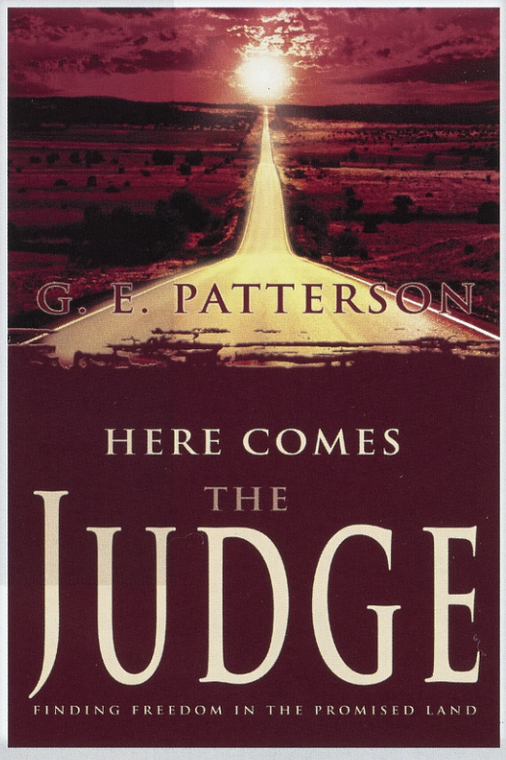
But it seems that the feeling of fulfillment was temporary—replaced by emptiness. Sickness has crept in where health should be. What about your finances? You thought you would be rich, not just living from day to day. Depression has become a way of life. The feeling of freedom and power has been replaced by bondage and fear.

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For best result, apply conditioner to hair and scalp 3 to 5 times per week. Massage well into hair. Comb hair into desired style.

STOP HAIR LOSS 24-7 LEAVE IN CONDITIONER.

(Same results as 4 Roots Up Moisturizer, but recommended for color treated hair.)

STEP 4:

Apply **SUPER ROOTS HOT OIL TREATMENT.**

For best results, massage the Hot Oil into hair and scalp every other day. Massage well. Comb hair into desired style.

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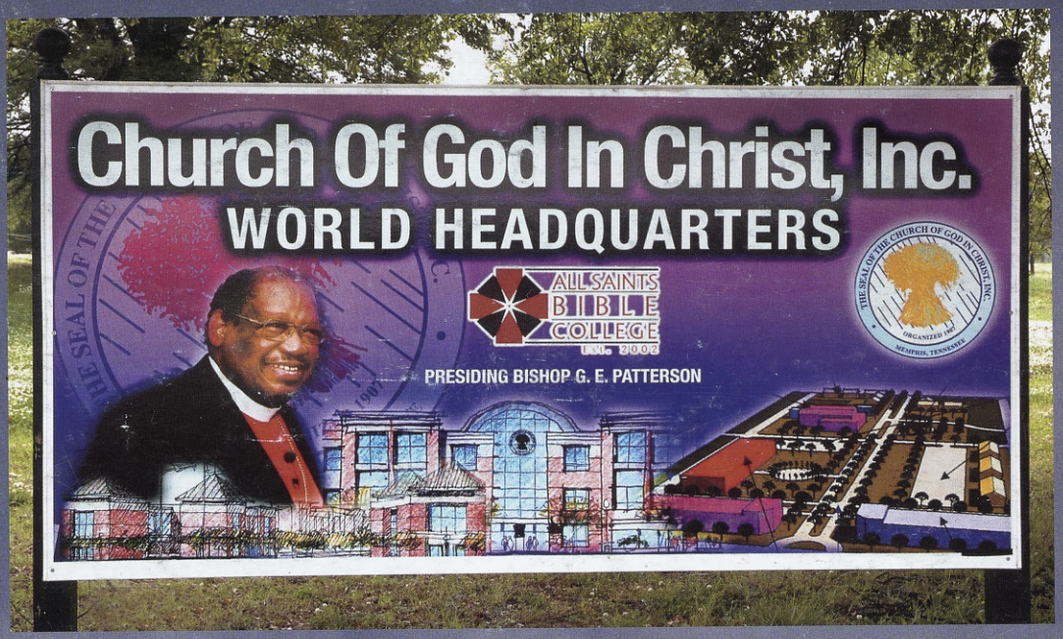
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Where there is no vision the people perish . . .

—Proverbs 29:18